

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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FOI/PA# 1662132-000

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Bureau of Invest
ites Department
Washington, D. C.

December 27, 1943

SSA:MM
8:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: EARL GODWIN'S BROADCAST

umfrey
I thought you might be interested in a part of Godwin's tonight's broadcast in which he referred to the alleged letter sent by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Lee of Southern Methodist University which predicted Wendell Willkie's nomination as a GOP Presidential candidate and inferred a White House blessing on this selection. Godwin commented that Hopkins declared the letter a forgery and stated that the FBI was conducting an investigation to see who wrote the letter, and furthermore, "The FBI generally get their man." As an aside Godwin commented, "I thought that was the RCMP."

Godwin stated that the FBI only investigated violations of Federal laws and wondered what Federal violation was involved in this matter. He stated that Sparks, who apparently claims possession of the letter, had advised that two FBI Agents from the Cleveland Office had contacted him and asked for the letter so that they might take it to the Attorney General, whereupon Sparks refused to give up the letter but stated he would take it to Biddle personally. Godwin concluded that the FBI was conscious of its lack of jurisdiction in the matter and was cleverly handing this "hot potato" to the Attorney General for his instructions so that the responsibility for any action in this matter would be placed upon the Department of Justice.

The above closely approximates the remarks made by Godwin.

Respectfully,

S. S. Alden (Dmm)
S. S. Alden

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/25/85 BY #26586



JAN 1 1944

Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

b6
b7C

DATE: MAY
t - 12-28-1

7446-2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

On the morning of December 27, 1943, Mr. Harry Hopkins at the White House contacted the Bureau with reference to the letter allegedly written by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Haphrey Lee, President of the Southern Methodist University, which letter is stated to be in the possession of Mr. C. Nelson Sparks, 584 Crestview, Akron, Ohio. Mr. Hopkins stated that this letter was an absolute forgery and that he desired that an investigation be conducted to initiate some action to determine whether Federal prosecution might be initiated against the people preparing this letter. It was suggested to Mr. Hopkins that this matter be taken up with your office and he stated that he would do so at once and further advised that he would write to the Department a letter outlining his knowledge of this situation and requesting investigation to determine whether there existed any violation of a Federal statute.

A short time thereafter Mr. Hopkins again contacted the Bureau and advised that he had, in your absence, talked to Mr. Lohy and as a result of his discussion with Mr. Lohy he was writing a letter to the Department asking that appropriate action be initiated in this situation. On the occasion of this second telephone call, Mr. Hopkins stated that he had intended to ask Mr. Lohy to instruct the Federal Bureau of Investigation to attempt to obtain possession of the original of this communication in order that it might be subject to appropriate handwriting and typewriting examination for the purpose of establishing its forged nature by competent examiners. Mr. Hopkins was informed that the Bureau would be glad to advise Mr. Lohy of this request and, accordingly, the matter was telephonically discussed with Mr. Lohy. Subsequent to this discussion, arrangements were made to have Special Agents of the Bureau call upon Mr. Sparks at Akron, Ohio for the purpose of temporarily obtaining the original of this letter for examination purposes.

At 4:20 P.M. yesterday afternoon two Bureau Agents contacted Mr. C. Nelson Sparks at his residence in Akron, Ohio and requested that

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
 Coffey
 Glavin
 Ladd
 Nichols
 Rosen
 Tracy
 Acers
 Carson
 Harbo
 Hendon
 Mumford
 Starke
 Quinn Tamm
 Nease
 Gandy

Wol

Memorandum for the Attorney General

-2-

he furnish them with the original letter in this matter in order that it might be appropriately examined. Mr. Sparks declined to furnish the original letter, stating, however, that he would furnish the original letter "upon the personal request of the Attorney General" or that he would produce the letter if subpoenaed before a Federal Grand Jury. Sparks indicated that he had anticipated a visit from Bureau Agents since the Associated Press had advised him that such a visit would be made.

Sparks stated that the original letter in his possession was written on White House stationery and bore "the official seal of the United States Government." Sparks stated that he was leaving Akron, Ohio on the evening of December 27, 1943 and would be at the Hotel Astor in New York City for the next few days. He also advised that he had furnished a photographic copy of the letter to Senator Connally of Texas.

The Bureau will hold in abeyance any further action in this situation pending instructions from you.

A copy of this memorandum is being furnished to Mr. Lohy for his information.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Humphord _____
Starke _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



FLW:DMM
5:50 p.m.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 27, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
SPECIAL INQUIRY

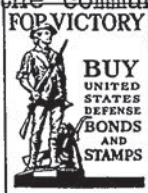
Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____ b6
Mr. Rosen _____ b7C
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Following previous instructions issued by the Bureau, Special Agents William H. Welch and William King of the Cleveland, Ohio Office contacted Mr. C. Nelson Sparks, 584 Crestview, Akron, Ohio, at 4:20 p.m. on December 27, 1943, in an effort to obtain the original purported letter which Harry Hopkins wrote to Dr. Umphrey Lee, President of the Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, and Mr. Sparks refused to make this communication available to the Agents.

Immediately after the two Agents contacted Sparks, they telephoned the Cleveland Office and dictated a memorandum covering the interview. SAC Boardman telephonically advised the writer that the foregoing information is set forth in the memorandum which they dictated. The Agents contacted Mr. Sparks at 4:20 p.m. for the purpose of delivering the message of the Attorney General that he desired to obtain, as a loan, the original letter which Mr. Sparks has stated he has in his possession. Before the Agents had a chance to make a request, Mr. Sparks remarked that he had been expecting the Agents to call upon him inasmuch as he received a call from the Associated Press shortly before the Agents called for an appointment with him, at which time the Associated Press informed that it was in possession of information to the effect that Harry Hopkins had requested the FBI to make an investigation of him for forgery. It was emphasized to Mr. Sparks that the Agents were not personally making an investigation but were contacting him in connection with an official inquiry requested by the Attorney General for the purpose of obtaining the original letter. Mr. Sparks seemed to understand that the contact with him was at the specific request of the Attorney General and stated that he would be glad to produce the letter in question under one of the following conditions:

1. Upon the personal request of the Attorney General.
2. In the event he is subpoenaed to produce the letter and the background information concerning this communication before a federally constituted grand jury.

Mr. Sparks insisted that he show this letter to the Agents, stating that the communication was written on White House stationery and had on it the official seal of the United States Government. The Agents stated they had no



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12-9-43

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

interest in personally examining the letter and that they simply made the request for the original at the instance of the Attorney General. Mr. Sparks apparently understood that the Bureau's contact with him was at the Attorney General's request and he stated that he was leaving Akron, Ohio at 6:15 p.m. on the evening of December 27, enroute for New York City where he will be for the next several days. He advised he could be reached at the Hotel Tudor in New York City. Sparks also mentioned that on December 27, 1943, he furnished a photostatic copy of the letter to Senator Sennally of Texas. He also remarked that a committee had asked for this letter but he did not elaborate as to the identity of this committee or whether he had furnished a copy of the communication to it.

ACTION: A comprehensive memorandum concerning the entire matter is presently being prepared for the Director.

Respectfully,



F. L. Welch



FD-76
3:40 PM

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

December 27, 1943

b6
b7C

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. Nelson Sparks,
Special Inquiry, White House

287
Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

In line with your request, at the above time I contacted SAC Boardman of the Cleveland Office telephonically, instructing that he make arrangements whereby two well qualified Agents would contact Mr. C. Nelson Sparks of Akron, Ohio, on the afternoon or evening of December 27, for the purpose of obtaining the original of the letter which Harry Hopkins purportedly wrote to Dr. Umphrey Lee, President of Southern Methodist University at Dallas, Texas. I read to Mr. Boardman the text of the purported letter as it appears in the Washington Post on December 27 which is as follows:

"Dear Umphrey: What has been done in the (blot) matter? Will you write me, please. What developments in the other situation? Willkie is going to be the man, in my opinion, and I can promise you good cooperation from that quarter if you think it would be helpful."

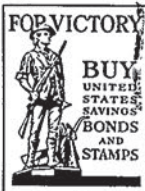
Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Harry Hopkins
EX-53

Mr. Boardman will send two well qualified Agents from the Cleveland Office to Akron for the purpose of conducting the interview with Mr. Sparks and stated that prior to their departure, Mr. Sparks will be contacted telephonically for an appointment. I told Mr. Boardman that the Agents should merely point out to Mr. Sparks that the Attorney General has requested the Bureau to make an official inquiry in connection with this matter and in line with his request, the Attorney General has asked that we contact him for the purpose of obtaining, as a loan, the original letter which he has in his possession. I stressed that this should be the extent of the comments on the part of the Agents and that if the letter is obtained it should be immediately forwarded to the Bureau. Mr. Boardman was instructed to advise immediately following the interview with Sparks as to the results of the contact. Mr. Boardman inquired as to whether any additional action should be taken in the event Sparks refuses to furnish the communication in question and I told him that no action should be taken other than to advise Mr. Sparks that the Attorney General would be advised of his decision. I also suggested that should Mr. Sparks indicate that the letter is not presently available, but might be at some later date that no inquiry should be made other than to ask him when he believed he could furnish the letter to the Bureau, pointing out again that the Attorney General would undoubtedly desire to have this information.

ACTION: You will be kept advised as to the results of the contact with Mr. Sparks.

Respectfully,
E. L. Welch



1943 548



FLW:TD
3:45 PM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 28, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. Nelson Sparks

37

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Kramer	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

At this time SAC Boardman telephoned to report the results of the contact with [redacted] Akron, Ohio, who, as you know, contacted one of the Bureau Agents at Akron, stating that he had some information concerning the letter which is purportedly in Sparks' possession.

Two Agents, after making an appointment, contacted [redacted] for the purpose of "receiving" what information he might desire to volunteer and the Agents have reported that this individual who is [redacted] had no pertinent information concerning the specific matter at hand, but advised the Agents that when Sparks was Mayor of Akron he [redacted] was a member of a grand jury investigating the slot machine racket in the City of Akron, which investigation involved one [redacted] stated that Sparks testified before the grand jury and in so doing gave the impression that he was testifying untruthfully. According to [redacted] the grand jury failed to return any indictment and there was no evidence indicating that Sparks, as Mayor, had received any graft and, in addition, there was no evidence on which to base an indictment against any individual.

[redacted] stated that he believed the information he had furnished the Agents was of such "national significance" that it should be given to a columnist such as Drew Pearson in order that it could be publicized and the public could know of Sparks' character.

To illustrate the type of individual [redacted] is, Boardman also mentioned that the Agents were of the opinion that two of [redacted] superiors at the [redacted] in Akron where he is employed apparently knew that he was to be contacted by the Agents. Boardman stated it was very likely that after an appointment was made with [redacted] he advised these two individuals of the fact that the Agents were to contact him.

RECORDED & INDEXED

ACTION: The Cleveland Office is taking no further action concerning this matter.

Respectfully,

21 DEC 30 1943

F. L. Welch



450



DML:PC
12:05 PM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 28, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm_____
Mr. Clegg_____
Mr. Coffey_____
Mr. Glavin_____
Mr. Ladd_____
Mr. Nichols_____
Mr. Rosen_____
Mr. Tracy_____
Mr. Acers_____
Mr. Carson_____
Mr. Harbo_____
Mr. Hendon_____
Mr. Mumford_____
Mr. Starke_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm_____
Tele. Room_____
Mr. Nease_____
Miss Beahm_____
Miss Gandy_____

b7D

SAC Boardman of the Cleveland Office called with further reference to the matter involving the above and advised that this morning they received a call from the Resident Agent at Akron to the effect that one [redacted] in Akron called and said that he has some very 'hot' information concerning the Sparks letter and is desirous of giving it only to the agent that made the inquiry, according to the paper.

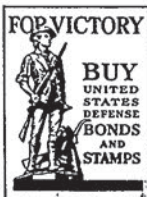
Boardman stated he was calling to determine whether or not the Bureau would be interested in securing this information. I told him that he should send two agents out to see [redacted] in view of the fact that he has approached us; that the agents should make no commitments; secure whatever information [redacted] wants to give; listen to what he has to say; thank him for the information and tell him it will be sent to the Attorney General.

I further told Boardman to advise the Bureau when this interview is through.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

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b7C



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21 DEC 30 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/86 BY [redacted]

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Cleveland, Ohio

LVB:MC

December 30, 1943

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. _____

Director, FBI

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS
Inquiry Concerning

Dear Sir:

Confirming my telephone conversation with Mr. FRANK WELCH at the Bureau on December 27, 1943, I wish to advise that Special Agents WILLIAM H. WELCH and WILLIAM T. KING interviewed Mr. C. NELSON SPARKS, 584 Crestview, Akron, Ohio, at approximately 4:20 PM, December 27, 1943. Before these agents had an opportunity to say anything, Mr. SPARKS indicated that he had been expecting Bureau agents in view of the fact that he had prior to contact with the Bureau been telephonically apprised by a representative of the Associated Press that Mr. HARRY HOPKINS had requested the FBI to make an investigation of him for forgery.

Agent WELCH advised Mr. SPARKS that the Attorney General had instructed the FBI to make an official inquiry concerning the communication allegedly written by HARRY HOPKINS, which was supposed to be in the possession of Mr. SPARKS and that in response to this instruction Agent WELCH was contacting Mr. SPARKS for the purpose of securing a loan of the original communication in question for the Attorney General.

Mr. SPARKS, after receiving the above explanation, advised Agents WELCH and KING that he would not make available to the Bureau the communication for transmittal to the Attorney General. He stated the only conditions under which he would part with the original of the communication in question would be to deliver it personally to the Attorney General or produce it under subpoena before a Federally constituted Grand Jury.

Mr. SPARKS endeavored to show the communication to Agents WELCH and KING, indicating that the letter was written on White House stationery with the official seal of the United States Government, but agents declined to see the letter. Mr. SPARKS indicated that he had on the day of the interview furnished a photostatic copy of the letter

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-25-85 BY [redacted]



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Director, FBI

- 2 -

to Senator ~~K~~CONNOLLY of Texas. He further indicated that some committee had called him for the letter. He did not elaborate any further on either of the aforementioned items and no questions were asked concerning same.

Upon the declination of Mr. SPARKS, the interview was terminated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. V. Boardman".

Leland V. Boardman
Special Agent in Charge

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 31, 1943

JFB:lem

Time: 4:15 p.m.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
SPECIAL INQUIRY

At this time Mr. Buckley in my office talked to Mr. Donegan in NY regarding this matter. In response to his inquiry, Mr. Donegan stated that they had received the Bureau letter enclosing the Attorney General's written request of Sparks to turn the controversial letter, allegedly signed by Harry Hopkins, over to Agents of this Bureau.

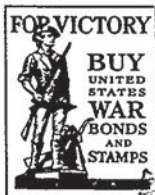
Mr. Donegan stated that in accordance with instructions he is holding the Bureau letter and enclosure on his desk and nothing will be done pending explicit instructions from the Bureau.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch
F. L. Welch

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY



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35 JAN 3 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JSG:lem

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 31, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: ~~RAYNER~~ RAYNER PUBLISHING COMPANY

37
Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm ☒
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Reference is made to your request for all information in the Bureau's files concerning the Rayner Publishing Company, publishers of "One Man-Wendell Willkie," by C. Nelson Sparks, former Mayor of Akron, Ohio.

You are advised that as a result of a request for information from Mr. Ugo Carusi of the Department of December 22, 1943, a check of the files revealed no references to this company.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch
F. L. Welch
[Signature]

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY



162-74466-9
DEC 31 1943

FUB

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RBS:dvm

Call: 11:05 P.M. 12-29-43

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-29-43 BY 12345

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

re: HARRY HOPKINS LETTER

Drew Pearson called and advised that he had a story on the "Hopkins letter" which he wanted the Director to check if the Director was in town. I advised him that the Director was out of town. Pearson then asked if Mr. Tamm was in town and I stated that he was. Pearson said he would call Mr. Tamm at his home as he wanted the entire story to either the Director or Mr. Tamm.

Respectfully,

R. B. Smith
R. B. Smith

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECORDED & INDEXED 69-74-11-10

From
THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
To

Official indicated below by check mark

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL	
Mr. Carusi	
Mr. Malcolmson	
THE ASST. TO THE ATTY. GEN.	
ANTI-TRUST DIV.	
A.A.G. Berge	
ASST. SOL. GEN. DIV.	
A.S.G. Cox	
CLAIMS DIV.	
A.A.G. Shea	
CRIMINAL DIV.	
A.A.G. Tom C. Clark	
LANDS DIV.	
A.A.G. Littell	
TAX DIV.	
A.A.G. S.O. CLARK	
WAR DIV.	
A.A.G. Hugh Cox	
E. J. Ennis, Alien Enemy Control Unit	
George A. McNulty, Alien Property Unit	
Mr. Cannon, ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.	
Mr. Butts, GENERAL AGENT	
CHIEF CLERK	
RECORDS DIV.	
SUPPLY DIV.	
Miss Bartz	
Mr. Brookes	
Mr. Cummings	
Miss Fanebust	
Mr. Freund	
Miss Furr	
Mr. Kilgallon	
Little Library	
Mrs. Norton	
Miss Quinn	
Mr. Raum	
Mr. Rockwell	
Mr. Roland	
Mr. Smith	
Mr. Stern	
Miss Williamson	

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

FLW:lem

RECORDED
INDEXED

62-74466-11

December 29, 1943

PERSONAL ATTENTION

SAC, NEW YORK

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Dear Sir:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

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b7c

This is to confirm the conversation between you and Mr. F. L. Welch of the Bureau on December 29, 1943, concerning the letter the Attorney General has addressed to Mr. C. Nelson Sparks, which is to be delivered to Mr. Sparks by Agents of the New York office. The Attorney General's letter is enclosed and, as you will note, it is stated therein that he desires to obtain the original letter allegedly written by Mr. Harry Hopkins to Dr. Uphry Lee, President of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, for appropriate examination, and that the bearer of his request, a Special Agent of the FBI, is authorized to receive the letter from Mr. Sparks for the Attorney General.

I desire that you have two well qualified and experienced Agents of your office immediately deliver the Attorney General's letter to Mr. Sparks, who is now in New York City and can be reached at the Hotel Tudor. Mr. Sparks, who resides at Akron, Ohio, left for New York City on December 27, 1943, and indicated that he would be at the above hotel for several days.

For your own information, it is noted that the Attorney General requested the Bureau to contact Mr. Sparks and obtain from him the letter in question for appropriate examination. Following this request, two Agents of the Cleveland Office contacted Mr. Sparks at Akron, Ohio, on December 27, 1943. Mr. Sparks declined to furnish the original letter at that time, stating that he would furnish it "upon the personal request of the Attorney General" or if subpoenaed before a Federal grand jury. It is upon Mr. Sparks' statement that he would furnish this letter upon the personal request of the Attorney General that Mr. Biddle has directed the enclosed communication to Mr. Sparks. Mr. Sparks stated the original letter in his possession was written on White House stationery and bore "the official seal of the United States Government."

At the time the Agents deliver the Attorney General's letter to Mr. Sparks, it is quite possible that he may inquire as to the nature of the Bureau's inquiries into this matter. If such is the case, the Agents should advise him that they have no personal knowledge as to the nature of any such inquiries other than that they have been instructed to deliver the Attorney General's letter to him in order that they may obtain the original letter in question for delivery to the Attorney General.

As mentioned in reference telephonic conversation, you should immediately advise the Bureau as to the results of the contact with Mr. Sparks. I also desire that this contact be handled in a highly efficient and diplomatic manner.

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Starke _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

5:00 PM
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
FURNISHED SAC CLEVELAND
★ DEC 29 1943 P.M.
Enclosure

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

DEC 29 6 12 PM '43

RECORDED 10 1944 AIR MAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERY



Bureau of Investigation

Department of
Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

EAT:KLW

Call: 2:35 PM December 27, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Pursuant to my conversation with Mr. Harry Hopkins, I telephonically contacted Mr. Charles Fahy, the Solicitor General, with reference to the letter published in Sunday's Times-Herald under the forged signature of Mr. Hopkins. I told him that Mr. Hopkins had recontacted me and advised me that when talking to Mr. Fahy he had neglected to ask if he thought it would be OK for the FBI to make appropriate inquiry and to try to obtain the letter.

Mr. Fahy said to go ahead. He added that he intended to personally follow this case and I informed him that as soon as we get the material and the report, we will send same to him.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/26/85 BY



62 JAN 31 1947

Edward A. Tamm

32 JAN 29 1944

Handwritten signature and initials

62-11161-11 b6 b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:KLW

Call: 2:50 PM December 29, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Mr. Fahy, the Solicitor General, telephonically read to me the following proposed letter:

"Mr. C. Nelson Sparks
584 Crestview
Akron, Ohio

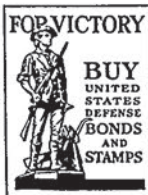
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

Dear Sir:

I am advised that you have informed Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that upon the personal request of the Attorney General you will deliver to me for appropriate examination the original letter allegedly written by Mr. Harry Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee, President of the Southern Methodist University, about which public comments have recently been made. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been authorized to make an investigation of this matter. I hereby personally request that you deliver this letter to me for appropriate examination. The bearer of this letter, a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is authorized to receive the letter for me."

I pointed out to Mr. Fahy that Mr. Sparks had indicated to Bureau Agents that he would be at the Hotel Tudor in New York City for several days and suggested that he send the letter to us and we would have it sent special to New York tonight. I also suggested that he not change the address of the letter so that in the event Mr. Sparks is not located in New York, it may be forwarded to Ohio. Mr. Fahy agreed to do this.

I inquired of him whether he thought this procedure preferable to subpoenaing Mr. Sparks and he replied that if this fails, they will try to subpoena him.



Respectfully,

RECORDED

32 JAN 29 1944

Edward A. Tamm.

62 JAN 31 1944

b6
b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 30, 1943

EAT:MMC
Time: 9:40

MEMORANDUM FOR *Mr. Tamm*

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

C. Nelson Sparks

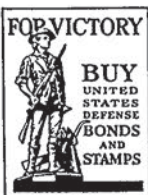
I talked to Mr. Charles ~~Fahy~~ *Fahy*, Solicitor General of the Department, and asked him if he had seen the Times-Herald story on Harry Hopkins' letter, which was to the effect that C. Nelson Sparks stated he wrote a letter to the Attorney General yesterday in which he withdrew the offer to present the letter voluntarily and informed the Attorney General if he wanted the letter he must go after it legally. This appeared in the bull-dog edition last night and has been in every edition since. Mr. Fahy had not seen it; however, he inquired if the letter to Sparks which the Attorney General signed yesterday had been shown to Sparks. I advised him it had not; that the New York Office was instructed to hold in abeyance any contact with Sparks pending further word from the Department. Mr. Fahy agreed this was correct and stated he would talk to the Attorney General about the matter. Fahy believes the thing to do now is to have the Criminal Division to determine whether they are authorized, either through a grand jury or some other way, to subpoena this letter. Mr. Fahy was of the opinion that Sparks is merely seeking publicity; that since he had offered to turn the letter over voluntarily, there was nothing illegal in asking him to turn it over to us.

Very truly yours,

EAT
Edward A. Tamm

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]
256586



RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-74466-11X2
32 JAN 29 1944

62 JAN 31 1944

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PERSONAL

December 28th, 1943

Mr. E.A.Tamm,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Rm 5734, Department of Justice,
10th and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Tamm:

Mr. Hopkins has asked me to give you the following account of some telephone conversations I had yesterday with a man who gives his name as Marshall Farmer in connection with the newspaper publicity recently given to the letter C. Nelson Sparks alleges was signed and sent by Mr. Hopkins to Dr. Umphry Lee.

Mr. Farmer claims to be an autograph collector. He gave me two addresses at which he could be reached, as follows - the New Colonial Hotel at 15th and M Sts. (Michigan 2331) or at 21 S Street, NW., No. Cap. & S. b6 b7C

He said he holds an autograph of Mr. Hopkins' which was sent to him, he believed sometime in 1938, by Mr. James M. Farley, which very much resembled the signature shown on the letter published in the newspapers yesterday. He claims to have a letter from Mr. Farley telling him he was sending him the autograph. He said that the newspapers were aware of the fact that he holds this autograph and that they have been endeavoring to secure his permission to photograph it for purposes of comparison with that shown on the Dr. Lee Letter. He claimed he did not wish to permit this without first talking with Mr. Hopkins about it. Since I was unable to contact Mr. Hopkins, I asked if he wished to deliver the autograph and copy of the letter from Mr. Farley, together with a note from him (Farmer) to the gate of the White House, but he seemed unwilling to do this. On my own, since Mr. Hopkins was not available, I suggested that he do nothing about the newspapers until later in the day. However, altho he telephoned several times, I had been unable to discuss the matter with Mr. Hopkins and finally told him that I thought it best for him to use his own judgment as to whether he wished to release the autograph to the newspapers or not.

Mr. Farmer telephoned me again this morning and I repeated this. He replied that he thought he would "keep it under glass where it was".

Sincerely yours,

D.E. Krauss

D.E. Krauss

Secretary to Mr. Harry L. Hopkins

RECORDED

INDEXED

62-71466-11X3
32 JAN 29 1944

62 JAN 31 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-20-85 BY [redacted]

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓ _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey *RC* _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd *DFW* _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____
Tolson

Appel ✓

Miss Gandy
J. H. Tavelch

Reference is made to the current publicity with reference to a letter which Mr. Harry L. Hopkins is alleged to have written to Dr. Umphrey Lee, which letter is reportedly in the possession of C. Nelson Sparks of Akron, Ohio.

Please be advised that on December 26, 1943, [redacted] the Chicago Tribune called this office and advised that he had seen a copy of the alleged letter which appeared in the Tribune on December 26, 1943. He pointed out that there was a mallocation of the word "Washington" on the letterhead and that it left room for a seven letter word and a comma, which could have been "Olympia". [redacted] went on to state that there is a hotel known as "The White House" in Olympia, Washington.

b7D

Very truly yours,

S. J. DRAYTON,
SAC.

SJD:MG

COPIES DESTROYED
44 NOV 9 1964



1/11/44
ICC detached
Op. 15 of L. W. Schick
1944 (5/8)

RECORDED
INDEXED

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162-74466-12
F B I
28 JAN 1 1944
J. Edgar Hoover

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 4, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____ b6
Mr. Harbo _____ b7C
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

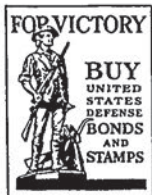
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Henry Schweinhaut of the Department called to inquire if any reports had been submitted on the conversations the Agents had with Sparks. I told him we had not made any investigation; that a memorandum was sent to the Attorney General and Mr. Fahy a day or two after the matter started advising we had asked Sparks for a copy of the letter and he said he would turn it over to the Attorney General personally.

Very truly yours,

Edward A. Tamm

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]



162-94466-13
F B I
35 JAN 7 1944

2 JAN 12 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

187a

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

GS:FVB

January 4, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

RE: G. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Pursuant to the request of Mr. Ladd I secured three copies of the book "One Man - Wendell Willkie" by G. Nelson Sparks. If you approve, two copies of this book will be retained in my office temporarily so that they will be available promptly if desired. One copy of the book is attached.

RECOMMENDATION: It is suggested that this copy be placed in the Bureau file.

Respectfully,

Grant Stetter
Grant Stetter



Attachment
FILE

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

1944 JAN 12 1944

JAN 13 1944

62-74466 15

JKM:PES

1/14/44

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM C. CLARK

Attached hereto for your information is a copy of an anonymous communication received by the Cleveland Field Office of this Bureau on December 30, 1943. You will note it makes various allegations concerning C. Nelson Sparks.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Larso _____
Menden _____
Murford _____
Starke _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Candy _____

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Cleveland, Ohio

LVB:MC

January 5, 1944
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Director, FBI

DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS
Inquiry Concerning

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting an anonymous communication received in this office on December 30, 1943 concerning the above-entitled matter. No action is contemplated concerning the attached communication in the absence of contrary instructions from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

L. V. Boardman

Leland V. Boardman
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure



62-7441-15
F
19 JAN 8 1944
RECORDED

The F.B I.
Cleveland, O.

Sir;

One in Charge of
The Sparks-Hopkins matter

Here is some dirt in the sparks case.

In the middle 20s after Sparks was Ousted as Mayor of Akron he was in hard straights--Look it up. A party told me he owed one of the grocery stores about \$500. and that may be beloney. See either Fouchs & Brittan or Lindberg & Sours in Akron. It was either one of these he owed. Look them up.

Then the Beacon Journal had just built a new home and moved there on W. Market at Summitt. It is now housed by the Public Library Sparks came by and slipped on an icy pavement and sued and I beleived settled for a bad injury in the fall. Some said he needed money. John Knight of the Beacon Journal could help in this. Sparks was getting to be a 2nd Kyle Ross in Akron. Looking for money and fame. Kyle Ross would look around a building and would see himself being chased by himself and would have all the police watching for bandits trying to kill him for his wealth of \$5. or so.

b6
b7c

Some one told me Sparks owed everyone so he left Akron and this may be untrue.

The people who elected or had Wilkie Nominated was mostly from Goodyear--Eddie Thomas and Litchfield Look it up for yourselves

These are just tips to help you
You can find out yourself.

Annonomy's

Anythng comes out of Akron is Phoney
Only one man in the Place--F.A. Seiberling who
built Goodyear from nothing and the town likewise

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

15

X

COPY
EC-1

AKRON, OHIO
Dec. 31, 1943

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

[redacted]
[redacted] says that the vets were once stampeded by Sparks and the spearpoint organizations were the "Blue Shirts" and the Fantin fascistic groups. It. Am. Civic Club Republican group and a Sparks for Mayor Club, and from there it grew. He said he knew nothing of his being a "hop head" but knew he was a "screw-ball". That he was long on promises -- short on fulfillment. Did believe someone put one over on Sparks. re "Willkie letter". Consensus of Am. Legion opinion, he said, [redacted]
[redacted]

b7D

b7D

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-96715-411

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

me: 1/1/44

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RECORDED
&
INDEXED
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62-74466-16

COPY

EC-1

Akron, Ohio

Dec. 31, 1943

C. Nelson Sparks

Having knowledge of the rise of Hitler and Mussolini, even at that early date (1935) one could see the same tactics in the Sparks' political moves, promises, etc. but everyone broken and the same hysterical following, so finally the American democratic way of life provides for the inevitable opposition to see the danger to the country to defeat it. And the huge Italian following of Sparks; with its "March Royale and its Giovinezza" (fascist youth song). was outguessed by a few American boys made of sterner stuff and who still carry on for U. S. A.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

62-74466-17

RECORDED

JFB:lem

1-8-44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM CLARK

Attention: Mr. Henry Schweinhaut

With reference to the contemplated Grand Jury inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the publication of the letter purportedly written by Honorable Harry L. Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee and publicized by Mr. C. Nelson Sparks of Akron, Ohio, I have received information from an unidentified source of unknown reliability, a resident of Akron, Ohio.

This informant states that at the time Mr. Sparks made his campaign for the Mayoralty of Akron, Ohio, he was supported by a group of individuals whom the informant describes as [redacted]. Specifically, the source advanced the names of several [redacted] as being connected with the Sparks campaign committee, namely [redacted] and others.

b7D

The general content of the source's allegations is that the supporters of Sparks have anti-labor and of a fascistic turn of mind. In addition, the source alleges that [redacted] is out to make money in any way that he can.

b7D

The informant alleges that Sparks has made the statement that he, Sparks, has precipitated his name into the public consciousness through the media of radio and newspapers and allegedly added that he is after a "position of usual size as his price."

The same source reported that allegations had been made in and around Akron, Ohio, to the effect that [redacted]

b7D

This information is submitted for any value which it might have to you. It was not obtained through any investigative efforts on the part of this Bureau.

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

EC-1 C. Nelson Sparks

Akron, Ohio
Dec. 30, 1943

(Correst former report (2 uays ago, reading Nelson A. Sparks to actual name, C. Nelson Sparks)

[redacted] where he informed me Sparks (check data).

That the vet drive was given impetus at [redacted]

[redacted] etc.) Sparks served as mayor in '32 or '33. Ike Myers (a compromise over Cox in '34, '35.

Sparks used vets again in '35. Gareri's place. Karl Tucker, now mayor of Lakemore, [redacted] used intensely by [redacted] as well, for here the ex-comattenti met of which Gareri was a member. A Hundred Italians on Sparks' campaign Committee [redacted] letterheads - Nick Cardarelli, leader of democrats also, but new political faces and energy spoiled the plans. On Aug. 2nd (election day following Tuesday 1935) Sunday -- Nick Cardarelli arranged a Democrat picnic at Roma Park. His plan was Sparks vs. Whitver. Felix D'Allessio asked Hugo Buonfiglio, the bandmaster (Republican) to introduce him as the Schroy speaker, which he did. Speaking for an hour, he made Sparks' bid for election look sick - charging him with being a "labor skinner" for cutting labor down to 25¢ an hour and his stone cutter family from union scale to a mere 40¢ an hour. Wm. DeLeone (now a leader of It.-Am. Vets, but who donated \$10 to opera Italiana Assistenziale, Fanti group fund in '40) and Fred Gareri were committee to escort Sparks at picnic from family to family to get votes. Gareri tried to yell D'Allessio down by yelling "Musica" (music) several times but to no avail. Sparks and his escorts fled - they becoming mortal enemies of D'Allessio, while the latter vowed to wipe out Fascist groups if he could.

All the events since that time showed that the Gareri-Fanti group jumped on the Schroy band wagon and after victory did all they could to discredit the anti-fascists, D'Allessio, et al. They circulated stories of the new people in politics with being Chicago gunmen. The fight to gain control of the later ~~Di Trosti~~ newspaper for fascist purposes by this group was fought 2 years at last

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/85 BY [redacted]

b7D

b7D

b7D

ORIGINAL FILED IN

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12-30-43

EC-1 C. Nelson Sparks

Page 2.

displacing D'Alessio as Asst. Editor, and the utilization of Di Tosti (Editor) for their purposes. The latter is in a concentration camp as an "Enemy Alien". But with him should have been Sparks' friends, Gareri, Fantin, Dr. Coraciotti, Cavalier, Atty Gustave ~~de~~ Mascitelli, and others.

It is said here that Sparks is out to make money ala "Gust Kasch way" -- griping -- only to sell out". Went bankrupt for about \$40,000 in recent years. Corrupt practices, while Sparks was mayor - purchasing, etc. (Check). Had these fascistic alliances been exposed in past, Sparks could not even have joined Gannett group (or can it be still a development of the same kind of political minds?) Kindly check this report if you believe it fantastic and see for yourself.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

62-74466-19

ENCLOSURE



Hey, Okey-Surprise!--The Bookies Are Running!

Imagine! The gambling joints aren't closed up after all. Well, well, well.

It was all just a nice, clean gag, folks--or, at any rate, that's the way it has worked out.

Removing the telephones from the three principal downtown gambling houses gave the vice squad boys a chance to thump their chests but today that thumping has a strangely hollow sound.

Those same three joints, a survey disclosed, are still open.

aling, their doors are open, they're getting race results over the telephone and the bets are pouring in at the old rate.

This is all of course, a great surprise to Vice Squad Chief Okey Weigle, the man with the rusty sledghammer.

Says Weigle: "The well-known horse race bookie joints are closed tight, with no action whatsoever. They're the tightest I've ever seen. There's absolutely no gambling going on now."

"I doubt if those three joints even spend money on daily

racine forms--unless they're on some sort of contract."

Weigle is right. About the joints not spending money.

But they're making plenty.

In Riley Jerrell's joint at 361 S. Main st. at 3:30 p. m. Wednesday there were about 30 patrons. One of Jerrell's employees was listening to race results over a telephone and shouting them out through a megaphone. Another man was placing the results on the blackboard. Bets were placed.

It was the same at 350 S. Main st., Bernard "Smoke"

Giancontieri's place. There they had two men acting as cashiers for the betting. Results, coming in by telephone, were posted on the blackboard.

Police Chief Robert Miller, before these disclosures of "wide-open" gambling activity were made, was asked what he knew about the gambling situation.

"From the reports I receive from the vice squad, I would say that no horse race bets are being placed in these large establishments," the chief said.

(Continued On Page Two)

Berlin Seen Bombed Out As Capital Ickes Stops Hard Coal At Ohio Line

Berlin Bombed Out As Capital Ickes Stops Hard Coal At Ohio Line

READY FOR DRIVE? Smother Axis With Paper!

Photos on Page 2

By H. B. "DOC" KERR

POISED FOR THE most extensive waste paper collection of the war, OGD police auxiliaries in Akron today were prepared to open their campaign at 8 a. m. Monday and to press it without letup until every one of Akron's 75,000 homes has been reached.

Starting time for the collection, which will be repeated every 60 days, was set at a meeting of 20 area, ward and precinct commanders at the Fifth ward headquarters.

Palmer, secretary of the salvage committee of OGD and Leo Shaughnessy, Fifth ward auxiliary police commander and liaison officer for the drive, stressed the importance of the drive and the need for waste paper.

Palmer told of millions of sheets piled in warehouses at American desks awaiting a truck of paper containers and wrapping.

Shaughnessy told of the success of several paper drives in the Fifth ward and of wholehearted support of citizens in that area.

"I'm not maintaining that our waste paper drive is perfect," says Shaughnessy, "but the results. Everyone helps and auxiliary policemen in this ward are cooperating to the limit. To date,

ANSWERS CRITIC MILLER'S CAR TO BE CRUISER

Chief Believes He May Be 'Fair-Haired Boy,' Cited By Aldrich

REQUESTS MORE AUTOS

Council's cry that "air-haired boys" of the police (apartment) get cars the city tonight for cruisers brought prompt action by Police Chief Robert F. Miller today. The chief ordered his personal auto converted as a cruiser.

"After considering the new that, Councilman George L. Aldrich thinks are fair-haired. I

Akronite, Pals Get Yule Gifts



COAL ORDER STANDS UNTIL APRIL 1

Anthraxite Supply Set Aside For Eastern States Consumption

HITS MANPOWER 'RAIDS'

By International News Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Fuel Coordinator Harold L. Ickes announced an immediate embargo today on all shipments of anthracite coal west of the Pennsylvania-Ohio line which is estimated to save 300,000 tons of hard coal for the eastern seaboard in the next three

HUZZA TO 1944 Sell-Out Seen For Whoopee Spots In City

NIGHT CLUBS, cafes, clubs and hotels today reported an unprecedented rush for New Year's eve reservations with the prospect that the "S.R.O." sign would be hung out before nightfall.

The action by OPA in ordering covered charges for the year-end party for specified reasons put the final impact on the big reservation buying drive, managers said.

Prices for a place to sit ranged all the way from \$4 a couple at one big downtown cafe up to \$12.50 a couple at one hotel club. \$15 a couple at a private club.

The increased cost of an orchestra was the only reason cited by any of the whoopee parlors for upping last year's cover charges by anywhere from

RAIDS CITY SHUDDERS UNDER NEW RAID

Three-Fourths Of Metropolis Believed In Ruins After Latest Assault

BLAST AT COAST AGAIN

Captured From Vice of Amphetamine Trade United Press International Wire

LONDON, Dec. 30.—A mighty 2,540-ton R.A.F. raid shook and burned the shuddering city of Berlin last night and may have finished it as a working capital of Germany.

The grim bombardment, the eighth in 42 days, presumably was directed at sections of the

1

10

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



CAA:K3

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 31, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COTTELL

Re: Purported letter dated August 17
and addressed to Dr. U. Grey Lee,
Southern Methodist University,
Dallas, Texas; signed "Harry Hopkins".

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

An examination was made today, December 31, of the so-called copy of the letter described above in an effort to determine its authenticity with the following results.

It is concluded that this is definitely an inaccurate and improper reproduction not representative of that from which it was made. The reason for this primary conclusion, which is a positive one, may be summarized as follows. The image purports to be that of a sheet of paper against a black background. By measurement it is clear that this image in its over-all extent distorts in shape, typically that of photographic distortion, the dimensions being different by as much as five-hundredths of an inch from one side and end to the other.

At the corners are images of the means by which the papers that were photographed were supported. Even a casual inquiry will reveal that these supports are not those of a single set but are duplicate or triplicate in number. It will be difficult to draw any conclusions from this alone, but in addition to this there are folds which show in the photograph as white lines. It will be observed that there are three separate and distinct sets at each place where the alleged folds occurred. The typewriting and the signature intersect these folds at many places, but in none of them is the typewriting or the ink cut, separated or bent in any respect whatsoever. In the word "quarter" for instance the "t" occurs exactly within the fold. If this fold was made after the typewriting was placed on the paper the effect of the fold on the "t" would be to distort its shape. The same is true in the "s" in "situation", the "y" in "you", the "n" in "me" and other letters at similar places. The date, August 17, 1943, while it does not exactly intersect the fold is so close that the lower portions of the letters should have been misshapened had the typewriting been on the

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Memorandum for Mr. Coffey

paper before a fold was made. Should it be contended that the typewritings and the handwritings were placed on the paper after the folds were made this would be even more fatal to the allegation that a single document is represented because in that event portions of the lines would be omitted completely on account of the folds.

With reference to the signature "Harry Hopkins" there isn't the faintest suggestion of any breaks in the lines or variation in the surface of the paper on which the lines are written by the reason of folding the paper after the signature was made. Similarly, the signature could not have been written after folds were made in the paper without disclosing at least some deviation by reason of being placed over the folds.

It will be observed that the typewriting is mostly very black as is the signature. It will be also observed that the images of the letters and of the writing stand out away from the background. This is exactly the effect produced when a montage is created by making "transparency" of typewriting, making an exposure from that negative on the paper and then exposing on the same paper a completely separate negative. It could then be possible to interpose a third negative of the letterhead "The White House, Washington" exposing it also on the same paper. In this way, three separate images would be transposed together to appear as one image on the document in exactly the way that this image appears in this case. In each of the separate images the background is eliminated as far as its is possible to do so. This results in just the writing appearing on a very clear piece of film (in the positive phase from which a negative is then made). There is one thing, however, which photographers attempting to accomplish this, result almost invariably omit to observe. This is the impossibility of entirely eliminating the background. Even if this consists of nothing more than the bare film itself. In the latter event there are transmitted to the paper the images of the surface of the film consisting of small round bubbles, tiny scratches and similar detail of the film surface. Also, some fragments of the surface of the original papers on which the writing existed are likely to be carried over. In the present instance an examination with magnification was made in an effort to observe whether there are present film bubbles and similar surface indications which show characteristics of montage images. A great deal of lint and dust from the images were also carried over into the paper image and these are inconsistent with folds and background of the supposed document. They exist like a screen over and not a part of the supposed document. In this connection it will be observed that at the top all along the edge there are shadows. These are typical of film negatives used in making montages.

The watermark at the upper left of the American Eagle intersects the typewriting. If one observes the tail where the words "has been" in the first line occur, it will be observed that the lines of the tail cease before running under the typewriting yet they reappear again below the typewriting. The cause of this is the fact that in touching up the negative in order to take out the paper background between the lines of typewriting the ink was applied so as to leave

nothing but clear film without an image between the typewriting. It was not carried over between letters in the line of typewriting nor within the hollow forms of these letters. Consequently the background of the paper on which the typing actually exists shows in a manner similar to a strip just where the typing is and blots out or includes the image of the eagle watermark, being superimposed thereon. This is the reason for the apparent discontinuance of the lines of the eagle's tail where it comes down to the line of typewriting. It will be observed that there exists at the upper right wavy lines as of a pencil. This extends down to the center of the typewriting, and a word has been smeared out in the first sentence. If close examination is made of this obliterated word and of the so-called pencil marks, it will be clear that the images should be much more certain in texture. Being out of focus some times produces a result somewhat similar to this, but there is also another reason which is that the pencil, if it is pencil, was applied to the film of the negative and not to an original piece of paper nor even to a photograph of such. It will be observed that the circular "pencil" lines in the middle intersect the typewriting yet the image is not at all similar to that of an actual mingling of typewriting impressions and pencil impressions on paper. It is as though one image were laid on top of the other image. This is particularly to be observed where the omitted word occurs. The lines to the right do not appear to intersect the "m" at all.

A comparison of the typewriting on the photograph with that on the known letter was made. If one will refer to the "4" in the date it will be observed that the vertical line on the photograph is at least a fortieth of an inch to the right of the upper curve whereas in the known typewriter the upper curve extends to where it would intersect the vertical line where it continued. This is a clear and unmistakable mechanical difference in the shape of these two typewriter characters. Similar differences occur in other places as are indicated by the ink arrows.

An attempt was made to compare the "Harry Hopkins" in the photograph with that of the known. It is believed that the signature on the photograph is typically a Hopkins signature. This does not mean, however, that it is a signature written by Hopkins or that Hopkins wrote the signature on the purported letter as is indicated above.

In order to make a comparison for the purpose of proving that a forgery occurred the quality of the line is of the utmost importance when the signature is one which could have been executed by tracing or drawing from a genuine model. In such an event it is the manner in which the lines are drawn which distinguishes the forgery from the

Nemo for Mr. Coffey
Page Four

genuine. In the present instance the signature on the photograph has become completely black because of the photographic process used and it is entirely unsuitable for comparison for the purpose of determining whether a forgery exists in the signature of which the photograph is a copy. One notable thing about this signature is its size. No doubt, Mr. Hopkins varies the size of his signature from time to time, dependent upon the size and shape of the paper on which it is made. The questioned signature, however, is unnaturally large and does not appear to fit the usual dimensions which one might expect. This could easily occur by reason of the slight enlarging and reducing effect which occurs in the reproduction of several different negatives in the manner indicated above. This is frequently overlooked in creating such an image. Of course this could not be shown without numerous known signatures typical as to size.

While the difference in the typewriter is, as pointed out above with reference to the date, it can not be said that the evidence concerning the remainder of the typewriting is entirely conclusive. This is because of the lack of detail in the images due to the manner in which the images were created. Some of the differences in the type design impressions are pointed out with ink. A typical example is the small letter "y" on which the left serif appears to be shortened on the photograph and normal on the known. The serifs on the letters "n" and in the middle of the capital letter "W" on the questioned are missing and are clear on the known. Of course the known is an original, and the impressions of the type are clear.

To summarize the above, the questioned photograph is not what it purports to be--an image of a single document containing the letterhead of the White House, the typewriting and the signature "Harry Hopkins".

In view of the above it is believed that no single original document can be produced. If an examination is made of the ink signature "Harry Hopkins" from which the photograph of this signature was made it will be possible to reach a very definite conclusion whether the original is a traced or copied forgery.

Respectfully,



C. A. Appel

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:KLW

December 30, 1943

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DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Coffey ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Mr. Acers b6
Mr. Carson b7C
Mr. Harbo ✓
Mr. Hendon ✓
Mr. Mumford ✓
Mr. Starke ✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Miss Beahm ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

The following memorandum outlines in chronological order the activity of the Bureau in attempting to obtain an original letter allegedly written by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Umphry Lee, President of Southern Methodist University, which was reportedly in the possession of C. Nelson Sparks.

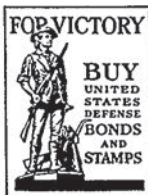
BACKGROUND

PUBLICATION FILE

C. NELSON SPARKS is a former Mayor of Akron, Ohio. In 1938 he wrote an article which appeared in Liberty Magazine entitled "Why Akron is a Ghost City - How Strikes Brought Ruin," which deals with the labor situation and Communist activities in Akron, Ohio. In November of 1938 he testified before the Dies Committee concerning the number of Communist activities in Akron, Ohio and at that time identified himself as having been Safety Director of Akron, Ohio, as having served two terms as Postmaster in Akron, Ohio and as having been elected Mayor of Akron on a non-partisan ticket. He also held the position of Chairman of the Federal Housing Bureau at Akron, Ohio, was Chairman of the Summit County Veterans Association, Chairman of the Citizens Public Works Committee and in 1936, during the Goodyear Rubber Company strike, was Chairman of the Law and Order League. He served as Campaign Manager at the Republican 1940 Convention for Frank Gannett, who was seeking the Republican nomination to the Presidency. Sparks has written a "book", a copy of which is attached hereto, and which is entitled "One Man - Wendell Willkie."

UMPHRY LEE is President of Southern Methodist University and according to Sparks' book, "One Man..." and according to press releases subsequent to the publication of the book the White House or administration group selected Umphry Lee to be the Democratic Senatorial candidate in the next election in Texas because of the administration's dissatisfaction with Senator Tom Connally.

THE BOOK, "ONE MAN - WENDELL WILLKIE"



C. Nelson Sparks in this book, which purports to expose

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Willkie's "blitzing" of the Republican Convention of 1940 and of Willkie's plans to again be the Republican candidate for Presidency, alleges that Willkie is also the Democratic administration's choice for the Republican nomination. In support of this contention on Page 44 of the book, Sparks sets forth the following:

"So it came to pass for awhile, the New Deal looked with fondness upon Dr. Umphry Lee, President of Southern Methodist University, as a possible candidate against Senator Connally. He and Harry Hopkins have been in correspondence.

"I have a copy of one of those letters, the original is available. It is dated August 17th, 1943, and signed by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Lee. It reads:

'Dear Umphry:

What has been done in the ***matter? Will you write me please. What developments in the other situation? Willkie is going to be the man, in my opinion, and I can promise you good cooperation from that quarter if you think it would be helpful'."

Subsequent to the publication of this book, the newspapers and particularly the anti-administration press seized upon this letter, publicized it and it was indicated in the press that the letter was written on White House stationery.

REQUEST FOR BUREAU'S INITIATION OF INVESTIGATION
AND HANDLING OF THE MATTER

At 11:35 A.M. on the morning of December 27th, Mr. Harry Hopkins telephonically contacted me and referred to the letter allegedly written by him to Dr. Lee with particular reference to publicity appearing in the Washington papers for Sunday, December 26th. Mr. Hopkins stated that the letter is a forgery; that the letter was not written by him and that the signature was forged. Mr. Hopkins stated that he would like to have some action initiated to determine whether there had been any violation of the law

intended to personally follow this case and that although he felt the Attorney General would want the Criminal Division to study the facts, he was going to request the Attorney General to permit him personally to keep in touch with the developments in the matter.

At 3:50 P.M. on December 27th, Mr. Steve Early telephonically contacted me about this situation and stated that the White House thought it might be well to advise the press that Mr. Hopkins had requested the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to make a complete investigation of the facts in this situation to determine whether any Federal law had been violated because of Mr. Hopkins' insistence that the letter was forged and Mr. Early wanted to know whether such publicity would interfere with the Bureau's operations. I told Mr. Early that the publicity would not since Sparks would know very shortly of the Bureau's action regardless of the publicity but I suggested to Mr. Early that no reference be made to handwriting, typewriting or other Laboratory examination in this letter. In this regard it may be noted that the late evening papers on December 27th and the morning papers on December 28th carried a statement from the White House indicating that Mr. Hopkins had requested the FBI to conduct investigation.

EFFORTS OF BUREAU AGENTS TO SECURE THE
ORIGINAL LETTER FROM MR. SPARKS

The Cleveland Office was telephonically instructed on the afternoon of December 27th to send two carefully selected Agents to interview Sparks and to inform him that the Attorney General desired to obtain the original letter purportedly written by Hopkins in order that it might be carefully studied. Sparks was interviewed at 4:20 P.M. and said he had been expecting an interview since a representative of the Associated Press had advised him that Harry Hopkins had informed the press that he had requested the FBI to make an investigation of the letter as a forgery. Sparks was informed that the FBI was not making an investigation but merely desired to obtain the loan of the letter in order that it might be reviewed by the Attorney General. Sparks stated that he would release the letter only under one of two conditions:

- (1) upon the personal request of the Attorney General, or
- (2) in the event he was subpoenaed to produce the letter before a Federal Grand Jury.

perpetrated in connection with the forging of this letter. I told Mr. Hopkins that if stationery had been stolen from the White House to prepare the letter there might possibly be involved a theft of government property; that there were also Federal statutes penalizing the reproduction of Government insignia, etc. which might have been violated if the White House stationery was counterfeit. I told Mr. Hopkins, however, that I thought the proper procedure to follow in this situation was to take the matter up direct with the Attorney General and to ask him to determine whether there was a violation of any Federal statute in this situation and if the Attorney General felt that there was to suggest to the Attorney General that the FBI be requested to make some inquiry. I told Mr. Hopkins that I knew you would be glad to have appropriate investigation conducted and, in addition, to have a Laboratory examination made of the typewriting and handwriting in the letter to establish its forged or fraudulent character. Mr. Hopkins stated that, as a matter of fact, he was not in Washington when the letter was written and that he would immediately contact the Attorney General by telephone, discuss this matter with him and confirm his request for appropriate action on the part of the Department of Justice in writing.

At 12:15 P.M. on Monday, December 27th, Mr. Hopkins again called me and stated that, in the absence of Mr. Biddle, he had talked to Mr. Charles Fahy about this situation, had requested him to initiate appropriate action and was confirming his request by letter. Mr. Hopkins stated, however, that he had failed to request Mr. Fahy to have the FBI attempt to obtain the original letter for Laboratory examination and that he was going to immediately contact Mr. Fahy and request that the Bureau contact Sparks in the name of the Department of Justice and endeavor to obtain the original letter for appropriate study. I told Mr. Hopkins at this time that I would be very glad, if it would save him time, to contact Mr. Fahy myself, advise him of Mr. Hopkins' call to me and see whether Mr. Fahy would approve the Bureau's requesting Sparks to furnish the original letter.

I was unable to reach Mr. Fahy until 2:35 P.M. on Monday afternoon, December 27th, but at that time I advised him telephonically of Mr. Hopkins discussion with me. Mr. Fahy stated that the Bureau should go ahead in accord with Mr. Hopkins' request and endeavor to obtain the original letter in order that it might be subject to appropriate examination. Mr. Fahy added that he

At that time Sparks offered to show the letter to the Agents, stating that it was written on White House stationery. The Agents declined, however, to examine the letter, stating that they were to obtain the letter and convey it to the Department and, consequently, Sparks did not exhibit the letter.

The substance of the contact with Sparks was furnished by memorandum to the Attorney General on the morning of December 28th and a copy of this memorandum was transmitted to Mr. Fahy. In this regard it may be noted that the press on December 28th quoted Sparks as advising the press of the visit made to him by Bureau Agents and of his declination to furnish the letter except under the conditions he specified.

In the meanwhile the Bureau held in abeyance any further action awaiting further instructions from the Attorney General or Mr. Fahy.

On Tuesday afternoon, December 28th, Mr. Hopkins called by telephone and referred to the press statements in which Sparks was quoted as declining to make the letter available. The details of the interview with Sparks were furnished orally to Mr. Hopkins and he was advised that in the Bureau's opinion the proper move for the Attorney General or the Department to make in the matter was to serve Sparks with a subpoena duces tecum requiring him to produce the letter before a Federal Grand Jury. Hopkins mentioned at that time that according to Jonathan Daniels a letter had recently been forged over Daniels' signature on White House stationery and Hopkins stated that he would obtain the details of this forgery and furnish them to the Bureau.

The Bureau heard nothing from the Department until 2:50 P.M. on Wednesday, December 29th, when Mr. Fahy called to state that he had prepared a letter for the Attorney General addressed to Sparks in which the Attorney General "personally" requested Sparks to turn the letter over to the bearer of the Attorney General's letter -- Agents of the FBI -- for appropriate examination. Mr. Fahy advised that he would send this letter, after being signed by the Attorney General, to the Bureau and desired Bureau Agents to serve the letter upon Sparks and attempt to obtain the letter upon the basis of this request. Mr. Fahy was informed that Sparks was apparently at the Tudor Hotel in New York City and that as soon as

the letter was received in the Bureau it would be forwarded to New York City and presented to Mr. Sparks on the morning of December 30th. Mr. Fahy stated that this procedure would be satisfactory and at about 5 o'clock on Wednesday evening the letter signed by the Attorney General was received in the Bureau. A copy of this letter is attached hereto for your reference and the original was forwarded with appropriate cover letter to New York City for handling on Thursday morning, December 30th. The New York City Office was telephonically instructed to select two capable Agents to handle this assignment.

The bulldog edition of the Washington Times-Herald, which appeared on the streets in Washington about 9:00 P.M. on Wednesday evening, carried a story, a copy of which is attached hereto, indicating that Sparks had "withdrawn" his offer to show the letter to Biddle and would make it available only "through the channels made available to you through laws enacted by Congress." In view of this changed attitude on the part of Mr. Sparks the New York Office on Wednesday evening was telephonically instructed to hold any action upon this matter in abeyance pending the receipt of further instructions from the Bureau.

At 9:40 A.M. on Thursday morning, December 30th, Mr. Fahy was advised of the article appearing in the Washington Times-Herald and the fact that the Bureau was holding action upon reapproaching Sparks with the Attorney General's letter pending an indication from the Department as to whether this action was desired in view of Sparks' attitude and apparent intention of declining to make the letter available. Mr. Fahy stated that in view of this changed position on the part of Sparks he desired the Bureau to withhold contacting Sparks and to take no action in the matter pending further instructions. On this occasion I again pointed out to Mr. Fahy, as I had done on previous occasions, that the desirable procedure in this matter would appear to be to obtain a Grand Jury subpoena on Sparks to produce the letter. Mr. Fahy stated that the Department would give consideration to this action.

About 11:30 A.M. on December 30th, Mr. Henry Schweinhaut of the Criminal Division called at my office and stated that he desired to obtain a complete resume of the facts in this matter which he understood had been the subject of some investigation by the Bureau. I told Mr. Schweinhaut that the Bureau had not

conducted any investigation of this case but had only attempted by direct request of Harry Hopkins to obtain the original letter for the purpose of having a handwriting and typewriting identification made. Schweinhaut stated he was at a loss to figure any possible Federal jurisdiction in this matter or any basis for Grand Jury proceedings. I pointed out to him that there was a possibility of theft of government property and also violation of Section 76 (A) of Title 18, which relates to counterfeiting or forging of Government insignia. Schweinhaut admitted that these possibilities had not occurred to him and stated that the matter would be the subject of further study in the Department and that in the meanwhile the Bureau should hold any further action in abeyance.

MISCELLANEOUS

Confidential informant [] contacted me telephonically and stated that he had determined from a confidential but reliable source that the following events had occurred in connection with the making of the Hopkins letter available to Sparks:

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"A hotel man in Oklahoma named [] but not [] some time ago called upon Secretary Ickes and told him of the existence of this letter. Ickes sent a boy named Briggs, who works for Ickes, to Akron, Ohio, to tip off Sparks as to the existence of this letter, and that Sparks thereafter obtained the letter which, according to [] informant, was an authentic letter."

[] stated that Dr. Umphry Lee had originally made a statement to someone, identity now unknown, that he had destroyed the Hopkins letter and that apparently this statement was made prior to the time that Umphry made the statement denying any knowledge of the letter. According to [] informant, the obliterated word in the first sentence is "Alamo."

The information furnished by [] is very much parallel with information contained in the Frank Waldrop column of December 29th entitled "The Great Letter Mystery", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Drew Pearson advised me telephonically on the night of December 29th that he had known of this letter several months ago but had not seen fit to use the story at that time.

G. W. Movius, Secretary to Senator Nye, on the afternoon of Wednesday, December 29th, advised Mr. Ladd in connection with this matter that he, Movius, had been the "hack writer" who had put together the manuscript for the book, "One Man - Wendell Willkie", and that while he knew nothing of the facts, he would be glad to furnish to our Agents his knowledge of the book. Movius told Ladd that Sparks had brought the material to him and that he had put it together in book form. Movius was informed by Ladd that the Bureau was not interested in the book but that the Bureau's only concern was whether White House stationery had been forged, etc. in connection with the preparation of the letter. Movius commented that White House stationery is easily obtainable, is picked up by tourists for souvenirs and could be in the possession of any number of people.

In one of his nightly broadcasts about Monday night or possibly Tuesday night Earl Godwin referred to this situation at some length and stated that Movius, Secretary to Senator Nye, had first admitted that he had written the book, "One Man - Wendell Willkie", and that Movius had subsequently denied that he had written the book.

REFERRAL TO BUREAU OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COPY OF THE
ALLEGED LETTER

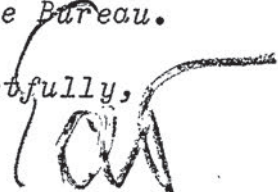
On Friday afternoon, December 31st, Mr. Henry Schweinhaut called at my office and furnished a photographic copy of the purported letter, which Schweinhaut advised was the copy that Sparks had furnished to Senator Connally. Schweinhaut requested that we make an appropriate study of this photographic copy and he furnished at the same time an original letter addressed to the Attorney General by Mr. Hopkins requesting an inquiry into the facts in this whole situation. This letter was to be used as a basis for the study of the Umphry Lee letter. The letter was referred to the Laboratory and is presently under examination.

At the same time Mr. Schweinhaut stated that the Attorney General intended to request the Bureau to conduct a complete investigation of this entire incident and that the Attorney General also contemplated requesting the Bureau to conduct an investigation into all of the facts surrounding the printing and publication of the book, "One Man - Wendell Willkie," including an investigation into the Rayner Publishing House which printed the book. I told Mr. Schweinhaut

that I thought this would be a serious mistake since it would enable Sparks and his supporters to claim that the Department of Justice was investigating something which was purely political and in which it had no jurisdiction. I told Schweinhaut that I thought the Department was on sound ground as long as they confined their inquiries in this case to the forged letter but when they branched out into the matter of the publication of the book, etc. I thought they were getting onto pretty dangerous ground.

Schweinhaut wanted to know whether, if the Attorney General desired the Bureau to conduct a complete investigation of the facts with reference to the Umphry Lee letter, the investigation should precede or follow a Grand Jury inquiry. I told Schweinhaut that the starting point of the investigation was, of course, the original letter purportedly bearing Hopkins' signature and that no practical investigation could be conducted until it was determined whether the stationery was genuine, the identity of the typewriting, whether the signature was, in fact, forged and all of the factors that would constitute a necessary foundation for the investigation. I told Schweinhaut that apparently the only way the Department could obtain the original letter was by Grand Jury proceedings and that, consequently, it followed that the Grand Jury inquiry would have to precede any active investigation to be conducted by the Bureau.

Respectfully,


Edward A. Tamm.

Sparks Flays Calling of FBI

Withdraws Offer to
Show Letter to Biddle

By JOHNSON KANADY

C. Nelson Sparks, author of "One Man—Wendell Willkie," yesterday branded the entrance of the FBI into the political whirlpool created by his book a "glaring example" of what can take place under a "highly personalized form of government."

Harry Hopkins, presidential advisory, called the FBI into the case after charging that a letter, which the book quotes as having been written by Hopkins to Dr. Humphrey Lee, president of the Southern Methodist University, was a forgery.

Two FBI agents called on Sparks at his Akron, Ohio, home and asked Sparks to "loan" the letter to Attorney General Francis Biddle. Sparks refused, but offered to bring the letter to Washington and show it to Biddle personally.

Yesterday, in a letter to Biddle, Sparks withdrew the offer to present the letter voluntarily and told Biddle, if he wants the letter he must go after it legally. Sparks said the decision to withdraw the offer he had made to Biddle was

(Turn to Page 10, Col. 1)

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1943

Sparks Flays Use of FBI in Hopkins Dispute

(Continued from First Page)

occasioned by Hopkins' charge that the letter, which is in Sparks' possession, is a forgery.

The letter, which both Hopkins and Dr. Lee have disowned, has been reproduced in newspapers of the nation, complete with Hopkins' signature.

In the book Sparks uses the letter in presenting his case that President Roosevelt, working through Hopkins and others, is attempting to influence the Republican choice of a presidential candidate. The letter predicts the nomination of Willkie by the GOP. Sparks has repeatedly said the letter is genuine, and that he can prove it.

Many Denials

Hopkins first denied he had written the letter last week, and Lee denied he had received it. Sparks then produced a photostatic copy of the document, resulting in Hopkins' charge that it was a forgery and the calling out of the FBI to prove Hopkins' case.

Sparks' letter to Biddle, mailed yesterday in Washington, related that when the FBI men called on him, on Biddle's orders, Sparks said he would be willing to show the letter to Biddle personally.

The letter continues:

"I had not then read Mr. Hopkins' public statement in regard to the authenticity of the letter.

"Since reading the direct charge made by Mr. Hopkins that the letter I hold is a forgery, and later learning of the method that he used to publicize the Federal Bureau of Investigation into a national political campaign, I have concluded that the method used by you to secure the letter is wholly un-American and a glaring example of what can happen to the rights of any or all American citizens under a highly personalized form of government; call it what you may, communism, fascism or New Dealism.

Must Resort to Law

"I therefore, wish to advise you that, if you desire to see the original letter written by Mr. Hopkins to Dr. Lee, which I hold, and which came to me in a perfectly legal manner, you should proceed through those channels made available to you through laws enacted by Congress.

"I cannot allow myself to be a party to a political incident of national importance that has all the earmarks of an attempt to 'put the works upon the rights of a private citizen by a veiled threat of the long arm of Government.'

"I await with interest and a full degree of co-operation any legal steps that you may decide to take."

Indications here are that the Department of Justice and the FBI undertook Hopkins' assignment to prove the letter a forgery with reluctance. Serious doubt has been expressed over what legal course could be pursued by the Federal investigators.

Preliminary Inquiry

Reflecting this, the FBI has declined any comment on the case, and spokesmen for the Department of Justice have carefully made plain that the only investigation being carried on is one to learn whether the department can legally follow Hopkins' "request." The agents of the department are only looking into the case to see if any statutes might have been violated to justify a full-fledged investigation, the department says.

A congressional investigation of the charges made by Sparks in the book is in the offing. Senator William Langer (R.), of North Dakota, has a resolution calling for such an investigation pending before a Senate privileges and elections subcommittee. Hearings are expected to open soon after the Senate returns January 10. Langer has said he will ask that Hopkins be called to testify.

Langer's resolution was the result of accusations made by Sparks in the book that Willkie's methods in obtaining the Republican nomination in 1940 were not above question.

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ENCLOSURE

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MYSTERY

By Frank C. Waldrop.

WELL, sirs and friends, let's pause in the midst of this World War and find out who's been forging Harry Hopkins' signature on political letters. It's worth the time and money just to find out what Harold

Ickes may have had to do with this affair. Just so you'll be up-to-date on this momentous issue, herewith a round-up to date:

It begins with the sad fact that a curious character known as Wendell Willkie slugged the Republican party's convention of 1940 dizzy and ran away with its nomination for President.

Then Willkie ran for President on a forward-backward, now-you-see-it—now-you-don't basis, against Mr. Roosevelt.

When all the dust had settled, Roosevelt was in for a third term, getting set for a fourth, and Willkie was found to have been trying to outrun him with an imitation of Roosevelt's own New Deal machinery. And was a flop.

BUT WILLKIE had the bit in his teeth and his tail over the dashboard, and has kept on running ever since. He still thinks he can get elected President on the New Deal platform.

Among his other eccentric performances since 1940 was a trip around the world, which brought on the inevitable book. Willkie's travelogue was entitled "One World," meaning, we suppose, that he has discovered this planet is—as it has long been reputed to be—one world.

WHILE WILLKIE has been cutting his capers, some other citizens have been repenting that they ever had any part of him. Among these: one C. Nelson Sparks, a venerable gent of Akron, Ohio, who used to be mayor of that city.

Mr. Sparks decided to tell the story of the 1940 Republican convention as he knew it from the inside.

Mr. Sparks wrote a book, too, entitled, *One Man*. It was not a flattering thing. Among other thoughts developed by Mr. Sparks was that Willkie is just a boob being used by the New Dealers to harass the Republicans from the inside, and that Roosevelt would like nothing more than to have Willkie as his opponent in 1944.

MR. SPARKS listed among his evidence that Willkie is just a sucker for the New Dealers, if not worse, a letter which he said had been written not long ago by Harry Hopkins to a fellow in Texas.

This letter was said to assure said fellow that Hopkins & Co. could handle Willkie in event said fellow, a Republican, chose to co-operate with the New Dealers in beating anti-New Deal Senator Connally for reelection.

The letter was on White House stationery and bears a signature that certainly does resemble Hopkins' signature on other letters.

But the man to whom the letter was addressed, a Dr. Humphrey Lee, says he didn't get it, doesn't know Hopkins, and is all a-fog about the whole thing. Hopkins says it is a forgery, outright, and has called for the FBI to investigate.

SPARKS, on the other hand, says he has the original letter, will surrender it to any appropriate authority, and is equally ready for inquiry.

So where are we?

Question No. 1 is where did

Sparks get the letter? Answer: Sparks hasn't made any statement on that. But the story on Capitol Hill is that Sparks got the letter from none other than our old pal, the Hon. Harold Ickes, celebrated Secretary of the Interior.

THE story is that Dr. Humphrey Lee showed the letter to an old man who happened to be a friend of his. It also happened (according to the story) that the old man is also a buddy of Ickes.

S-o-o-o, the old man told Ickes, and Ickes, knowing that Sparks was writing the book about Willkie, sent one of his stooges out to Ohio to tell Sparks the hot news.

Why? Well, you have to understand Ickes to understand that. Ickes hates Hopkins because Hopkins, back in 1934, outsmarted him and got away with the biggest chunk of Federal relief money Ickes had meant to snaffle.

And Ickes Never Forgets. Prides himself on his long-lasting hates. Sits up nights to think of cheap revenges.

SO, NEIGHBOR, don't think it would have been beneath Ickes to double-cross Hopkins as per the story. He'd do it in a second. But did he? Just hold that a moment and let's consider Question No. 2 in the Great Letter Mystery.

That is: How come Hopkins can get the FBI to investigate this case? Answer: The Department of Justice said yesterday the FBI is NOT investigating—just investigating to see whether it should investigate.

TRUE agents have called on Mr. Sparks and asked for the letter, but there is no Federal crime so far apparent, unless somebody has been unlawfully impersonating a Federal officer (Hopkins), or unless theft of White House stationery is shown.

It would be a pity to have this affair smothered by technicalities, however.

Senator Langer, of North Dakota, is talking about a senatorial inquiry. Why not?

THERE are many sides to this affair that need developing. One, and not the least of these, is the handy way in which Hopkins and others of his kind send G-men around at the taxpayers' expense and on the taxpayers' time, doing their errands and satisfying their inflated egos.

This case isn't the first. Nor will it be the last, as long as the hot-shot Palace Guardsmen are allowed to run wild with power.

C. Nelson Sparks is a stranger to this writer, and strictly on his own when he gets into a Washington slugging match. But he seems pretty well able to take care of himself.

The Senate should investigate this case of the Great Letter Mystery and see where it leads.

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Acers.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Hendon.....
Mr. Mumford.....
Mr. Stacks.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 9/26/85 BY

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b7C

62-74466-204
ENCLOSURE

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD
ELDOG EDITION 12-29-43

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

"Dear Umphrey"

C. Nelson Sparks, an erstwhile Willkie supporter, who is now busily engaged in biting the hand he fed in 1940, has given to the press the photostat of a letter allegedly written by Harry Hopkins, President Roosevelt's adviser, to Dr. Umphrey Lee, president of the Southern Methodist University. This letter Mr. Sparks offers as proof of his contention that the Administration is engaged in a devious effort to get Mr. Willkie nominated by the Republican Party. But whether the letter proves that or proves anything at all depends, in the first instance, on whether it is genuine or not. If it is genuine, experts in handwriting, typewriting, paper, water-marking and other fields of detection are available to prove that fact. If, on the other hand, it is a fake, then Mr. Sparks has either been the victim of a hoax or party to a deception. For his part Mr. Hopkins has proclaimed the letter a forgery and Dr. Lee, who is a highly respected Texas educator, who is addressed in the letter by the familiar "Dear Umphrey," says he not only never got the letter, never wrote Mr. Hopkins in the first place, but has never even met Mr. Hopkins.

In the face of these denials the burden of proof regarding the authenticity of the "Dear Umphrey" letter is altogether up to Mr. Sparks. His own say-so that the letter is genuine is, obviously, insufficient. Nor has Mr. Sparks helped his case in the least by declaring, after the F.B.I. had asked him to turn over the letter to the bureau, that this action is "wholly un-American and a glaring example of what can happen to the rights of any or all American citizens under a highly personalized form of government, call it what you may, communism, fascism or New Dealism." This, of course, is arrant nonsense, the over-protestation of an angry man who may have been caught off base by his own vehemence. Mr. Sparks had the right to turn the letter over to the F.B.I. or not, as he saw fit. But when he talks of un-American actions, it is time to remind him that it is hardly in the American tradition to make charges in advance of their substantiation. As things stand now, it is Mr. Sparks, and not Mr. Hopkins or Mr. Willkie, who has to do some explaining.

THE WASHINGTON POST
MORNING EDITION

Date _____

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62-74766-20X

Willkie Letter Is Forgery, Says Hopkins

FBI Probing Sparks
Affair, Asserts Harry

By JOHNSON KANADY

Harry Hopkins, confidant of President Roosevelt, charged yesterday that a letter tying him up with New Deal planning to influence the Republican choice for a presidential candidate is a forgery, and said he had asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate the document.

The letter, purportedly written by Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee, president of Southern Methodist University, is reportedly in the possession of C. Nelson Sparks, former Akron mayor and author of the book "One Man—Wendell Willkie."

FBI Rebuff Claimed

Sparks gave the nation's press a photostatic copy of the letter Saturday night after Hopkins denied here that he ever wrote such a letter.

Yesterday in Akron, Sparks said he was approached by two FBI agents who asked that he turn over the letter to Attorney General Francis Biddle. Sparks said he refused to comply with the re-

quest but offered to bring the letter to Washington and show it to Biddle personally.

A spokesman for the Department of Justice said that thus far the only investigation being made by the FBI was one to see whether any Federal statute might have been broken to make justifiable an investigation of the letter.

"No Comment" Here

Inquiry at the FBI here as to whether Hopkins had made the request to investigate the Sparks letter and under what statute the investigation would be made, brought only the reply "no comment."

Unavailing also was an attempt to get from Hopkins' office here a copy of the presidential advisor's signature for comparison with the signature on the reproduction of the letter in question. The letter predicts the nomination of Wendell Willkie by the Republicans in 1944. Hopkins, according to a secretary, was "out" all afternoon, and could not be reached for comment.

His statement declaring the letter a forgery was issued by presidential secretary Stephen Early.

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Washington Times Herald
December 28, 1943

62-74466-20X

Letter Called Forgery

"I have seen what purports to be a photostat of a letter addressed to Dr. Umphrey Lee, president of Southern Methodist University, with my alleged signature," the Hopkins statement read. "That letter and the signature are both forgeries."

The statement added that at Hopkins' request the FBI is investigating the matter, and that FBI agents "usually get their man, or men."

The letter involved was first published in Sparks' book, which charges, among other things, that Willkie's actions in obtaining the Republican nomination in 1940 included attempts to purchase votes of delegates. The book also ties Willkie up with Eastern internationalists and indicates that he was committed to an interventionist policy while campaigning against the same policy as advanced by President Roosevelt, his opponent in the election.

Willkie "Is the Man"

One sentence of the Hopkins letter, as quoted in Sparks' book and reproduced in the photostat made public Christmas night, reads:

"Willkie is going to be the man,

in my opinion, and I can promise you good co-operation from that quarter if you think it would be helpful."

Sparks listed this letter, along with other evidence, as indicative of a close relationship between Willkie and the White House.

Senator William Langer (R.) of North Dakota, introduced a resolution shortly after Sparks' book was published, calling for an investigation of the charges contained in the book. The resolution is pending in a Senate Privileges and Elections subcommittee headed by Senator Harley M. Kilgore (D.) of West Virginia.

Langer in a statement yesterday called on the subcommittee to go to work and find out whether Hopkins "is dabbling in Republican politics." Indications are that when the investigation starts, Hopkins will be one of the witnesses called.

"I would be very interested," Langer said, "to hear Hopkins

deny authorship of the letter while he is under oath."

Senator Langer probably will appear before the subcommittee late in January to outline privately the charges contained in Sparks' book. Both Sparks and Willkie have expressed willingness to appear before the investigating group. Willkie has called the Sparks charges "amusingly reckless" and Sparks has promised that he can produce abundant evidence that his accusations are correct.

Senator Warren Austin (R.) of Vermont, a subcommittee member, said the subcommittee must first decide whether it believes Congress has any jurisdiction over the happenings at a national party convention.

In this connection, Senator Austin cited the fact that the Federal Corrupt Practices Act specifically excludes national party conventions in its provisions dealing with elections and vote machinery.

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ENCLOSURE
62-74466-20X

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

December 28, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

SOLICITOR

At the request of Harry Hopkins and the Attorney General, agents approached Sparks yesterday in an effort to obtain the letter Sparks claims Harry Hopkins wrote indicating he could obtain Wendell L. Willkie's support of a potential Democratic Senatorial candidate.

BACKGROUND

The book "One Man - Wendell Willkie" written by Sparks sets out a letter Sparks claims Hopkins wrote to Dr. Umphry Lee, President of Southern Methodist University dated August 17, 1943. The letter is quoted on page forty-four:

"Dear Umphry:

What has been done in the * * * * matter? Will you write me please. What developments in the other situation? Willkie is going to be the man, in my opinion, and I can promise you good cooperation from that quarter if you think it would be helpful."

This letter has been frequently mentioned in newspaper articles concerning the pending Senate investigation of the 1940 Republican Convention. It is charged that the letter proves Hopkins is cooperating with Willkie to obtain the Republican nomination in 1944 and that Willkie is cooperating with the White House to purge Southern Democrats who do not cooperate fully with the New Deal. Sparks first informed the newspapers he had a copy of the letter. Hopkins then denied writing it which prompted Sparks to release photostatic copies. Hopkins then requested the Attorney General and the Bureau to secure the letter from Sparks so that the signature might be examined. Sparks refused to release it.

NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY

A series of newspaper articles have appeared in the past several weeks concerning the investigation by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections of the 1940 Republican Convention. The investigation is apparently based in part upon charges that efforts were made to buy delegates for Willkie at the Convention. Sparks, former mayor of Akron and campaign manager at the 1940 Convention for Frank Gannett, claims to have evidence of the attempts to buy delegates. Senator William Langer of North Dakota introduced a resolution in the Senate to conduct the investigation.

COPIES DESTROYED

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FEB 8 1944

Memorandum for the Director

In connection with the publicity about the inquiry, the Times Herald on December 15, 1943, carried an article suggesting that there is an understanding between Willkie and the White House for reciprocal political aid. The article referred specifically to allegations of joint action in Southern politics.

The letter Hopkins allegedly wrote to Dr. Umphry Lee is mentioned in this connection and Sparks is quoted as saying the New Dealers plan to use him as a candidate against Senator Tom Connellay. It is alleged in this and subsequent articles that Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes is at odds with Hopkins and for this reason told Sparks about the letter when he learned Sparks was writing the book "One Man - Wendell Willkie". According to the articles, Hopkins is helping Willkie so that he, Hopkins, will be in a "good spot" if either Roosevelt or Willkie is elected. After copies of the letter were published by the newspapers, Hopkins issued a denial that he wrote it, stating he was in Quebec attending the conference of United Nations leaders on the date, August 17, 1943, the letter was written. Dr. Lee also denied ever receiving such a letter from Hopkins. Shortly after Hopkins issued this denial, Sparks released photostatic copies of the letter to newspapers. The latest publicity concerning the matter appears in the papers today, the articles being based on a statement released by Hopkins through Stephen Early. The articles state Hopkins claims Sparks' letter is a forgery and that he has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate the document. Copies of representative newspaper articles are attached.

BOOK "ONE MAN - WENDELL WILLKIE"

Sparks' book contains a chapter entitled "Danger Ahead" devoted to the theme that the New Deal wants to purge some Southern Democrats. According to Sparks, Republicans can be of assistance in accomplishing this since there interests are very limited in the South and can be devoted to Democratic matters instead of Republican. Sparks states that the White House wants Senator Tom Connellay to be defeated in 1946 because he is too nationalistic and does not support "World-Wide Utopia". Dr. Umphry Lee, President of Southern Methodist University, is suggested as a possible candidate against Connellay and Hopkins' letter is quoted to prove Sparks' contention that the New Deal plans to purge Connellay and support Lee. Apparently the asterisks which appear in the letter as quoted earlier in this memorandum were inserted deliberately by Sparks as he makes the observation that the omission pertains to matters of a personal nature. A copy of the book is attached.

EFFORTS TO SECURE SPARKS' COPY OF LETTER

Agents were instructed to contact Sparks and inform him the Attorney General had requested that the original of this letter be turned over to them. They did this but Sparks refused to make it available. On the afternoon of December 27, 1943, SAC Boardman was instructed to send two well-qualified agents to interview Sparks and inform him that the Attorney General wanted to borrow the letter. They interviewed Sparks at 4:20 P.M. He said he had been expecting the agents as a representative of the Associated Press called and said information had been received Harry Hopkins had requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Memorandum for the Director

to investigate the letter as a forgery. He was informed that the agents were not making an investigation but merely requesting a loan of the letter as instructed by the Attorney General. Sparks said he would release the letter on one of two conditions: one, upon the personal request of the Attorney General; two, in the event he is subpoenaed to produce the letter before a Federal Grand Jury.

Sparks offered to exhibit the letter to the agents, mentioning that it was on White House stationery. The agents repeated to him that their instructions were specific; namely, that they were to convey to him the Attorney General's request that the original be loaned to the Attorney General. He did not exhibit the letter.

RECORD OF SPARKS IN THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

An article appeared in the September 24, 1938, issue of Liberty Magazine entitled "Why Akron is a Ghost City - How Strikes Brought Ruin" by C. Nelson Sparks, former mayor. This article discusses the labor situation in the rubber industry and the results of strikes and Communist activities in that city. He alleged that because of these activities a number of the large rubber companies had moved a portion of their plants to other parts of the country. He ends his article by stating "Akron cannot obtain new industries so long as it pats on the back a labor leadership that periodically creates strife to boost the payment of union dues.

On Tuesday, November 15, 1938, Sparks testified before the Dies Committee under subpoena concerning his knowledge of Communist activities in Akron, Ohio. In identifying himself he stated that he had been Safety Director of that city; that he had served two terms as Postmaster under two presidents and had been elected mayor on a non-partisan ticket, serving in this capacity in 1932 and 1933. He also held the position of chairman of the Federal Housing Bureau at Akron under the present administration; the position of chairman of the Summit County Veterans Association; and chairman of the Citizens Public Works Committee organized under the present administration to promote public works for Akron. Sparks was also chairman of the Law and Order League during the Goodyear Strike in 1936.

Sparks at this hearing testified that while acting as mayor of Akron he became interested in "subversive activities" in that city and since that time had broadened his studies in this field to include the rest of the United States. At the time of testifying he stated that he was then writing a book on this subject.

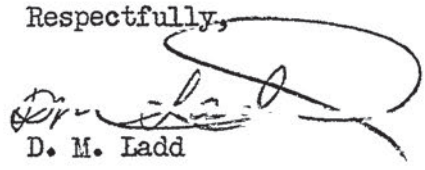
He testified generally concerning Communist activities and the labor situation in the rubber industry and stated that he had made a study of the strike situation covering the whole United States, had visited many cities and had conducted his own research preparatory to writing the above mentioned book and conducting a lecture tour.

ACTION

Memorandum for the Director

You will be advised of any further developments in this matter.

Respectfully,


D. M. Ladd

Attachments

*apparently removed
see Sub A file
JRM*

From
THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
To

Official indicated below by check mark

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL _____	
Mr. Carusi _____	
Mr. Malcolmson _____	
THE ASST. TO THE ATTY. GEN. _____	
ANTI-TRUST DIV. _____	
A.A.G. Berge _____	
ASST. SOL. GEN. DIV. _____	
A.S.G. Cox _____	
CLAIMS DIV. _____	
A.A.G. Shea _____	
CRIMINAL DIV. _____	
A.A.G. Tom C. Clark _____	
LANDS DIV. _____	
A.A.G. Littell _____	
TAX DIV. _____	
A.A.G. S.O. CLARK _____	
WAR DIV. _____	
A.A.G. Hugh Cox _____	
E. J. Ennis, Alien Enemy Control Unit _____	
George A. McNulty, Alien Property Unit _____	
Mr. Cannon, ADMINISTRATIVE ASST. _____	
Mr. Butts, GENERAL AGENT _____	
CHIEF CLERK _____	
RECORDS DIV. _____	
SUPPLY DIV. _____	
Miss Bartz _____	
Mr. Brookes _____	
Mr. Cummings _____	
Miss Fanebust _____	
Mr. Freund _____	
Miss Furr _____	
Mr. Kilgallon _____	
Little Library _____	
Mrs. Norton _____	
Miss Quinn _____	
Mr. Raum _____	
Mr. Rockwell _____	
Mr. Roland _____	
Mr. Smith _____	
Mr. Stern _____	
Miss Williamson _____	

Mr. Tamm
F B J

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



General Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 29, 1943

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____ b6
Mr. Harbo _____ b7C
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

DML:CSH

4 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. Tamm

Re: Harry Hopkins letter

Mr. G. W. Movius, secretary to Senator Nye of North Dakota, called on the telephone at this time and referred to the allegedly forged letter set out in the book "One Man - Wendell Willkie", which letter C. Nelson Sparks claims was written to Dr. Humphry Lee by Harry Hopkins. Mr. Movius advised that he, Movius, had been the "hack writer" who had put together the manuscript for the book "One Man - Wendell Willkie", and while he knew nothing of the facts he would be glad to furnish to our Agents his knowledge of the book.

I informed Mr. Movius that our interest was not in the book; that our only concern was whether White House stationery had been forged and used in this letter. Movius commented that White House stationery is easily obtainable, is picked up by tourists for souvenirs, and could be in the possession of any number of people.

In reply to my statement that I supposed Senator Langer's committee would investigate the book "One Man - Wendell Willkie", Mr. Movius commented that he did not believe there would be any investigating committee; that if the Senate investigated this, they would also have to investigate every political document put out in 1944, and the taxpayers would not stand for that. He remarked, incidentally, that on reading in the paper that the FBI had been asked to investigate the Harry Hopkins letter, he had thought of writing to us, in a facetious manner, to request that we investigate the book "Under Cover". He also stated that in his opinion the investigation of "Under Cover" by Senator Wheeler's committee would not amount to anything.

In closing, Mr. Movius advised, for my confidential information, that in his opinion there was not the slightest question as to the authenticity of the Harry Hopkins letter; that he did not believe it was a forgery.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

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INDEXED

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FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

FEB 2 1944

C. NELSON SPARKS
AKRON, OHIO

December 29, 1943

The Honorable
Francis Biddle
United States Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

When the two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation called upon me at my home in Akron, Ohio, on December 28th, and requested, upon orders from you, that I turn over to them the letter written by Mr. Harry Hopkins to Dr. Humphrey Zee, which request I refused with the statement "I would willingly show the Attorney General the letter personally", I had not then read Mr. Hopkins' public statement in regard to the authenticity of the letter.

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Since reading the direct charge made by Mr. Hopkins that the letter I hold is a forgery, and later learning of the method that he used to publicize the Federal Bureau of Investigation into a national political campaign, I have concluded that the method used by you to secure the letter is wholly un-American and a glaring example of what can happen to the rights of any or all American citizens under a highly personalized form of Government, call it what you may, communism, Fascism or New Dealism.

I, therefore, wish to advise you that, if you desire to see the original letter written by Mr. Hopkins to Dr. Lee, which I hold, and which came to me in a perfectly legal manner, you should proceed through those channels made available to you through laws enacted by Congress.

I cannot allow myself to be a party to a political incident of National importance that has all the earmarks of an attempt to "put the works upon the rights of a private citizen by a veiled threat of the long arm of Government".

I await with interest and a full cooperation any legal steps that you may decide to take.

Sincerely,
s/s C. NELSON SPARKS
C. Nelson Sparks

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DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

RECORDED
INDEXED 34

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Bureau of Investigation
Federal Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:KLW

January 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Mr. Harry Hopkins contacted me by telephone about 5:30 P.M. Sunday, January 9, 1944. He talked in general terms about the forthcoming Grand Jury session to investigate the Umphrey Lee letter and stated that he had observed that Mr. C. Nelson Sparks was going to deliver an address in Chicago on Monday night. Mr. Hopkins stated that he thought it would be well if the Bureau would arrange to cover Sparks' speech to see whether he said anything pertinent to this situation and I told him that you would be pleased to do this. (I contacted Drayton at Chicago and told him about the meeting and instructed him to have a discreet Agent cover it since it is a public meeting.)

Mr. Hopkins stated that he would be confined to the hospital for several more days and, consequently, would be unable to appear on Wednesday to testify before the Grand Jury. He stated that he was going to have Mr. Steve Early at the White House on Monday, January 10th, issue a statement to the press concerning Hopkins' illness in order that Sparks could not claim that Hopkins was deliberately staying away from the Grand Jury.

On the morning of January 10, Mr. David K. Niles of the White House telephoned and stated that he and Dr. Lubin would be right over on a very important matter and they arrived a few minutes thereafter. The purpose of their call was to determine whether the Bureau was going to arrange to cover the meeting in Chicago to be addressed by Sparks Monday night and I told them that you had made arrangements to do this.

Respectfully,

Edward A. Tamm.

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DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]



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21 JAN 12 1944
(5) [signature]

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:KLW
Call: 2:55 PM

January 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____ b3
Miss Gandy _____

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DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

Mr. Henry Schweinhaut telephonically requested that the Bureau have [redacted] present at the Grand Jury proceedings on Wednesday [redacted]

[redacted] I told him we would do this. He thereafter requested that [redacted] meet him at the Grand Jury proceedings.

He went on to say that he had just received a call from [redacted] who advised him that one of his men had suggested the possibility that the stationery of the White House Hotel in Olympia, Washington had been utilized in the writing of this letter. Mr. Schweinhaut added, however, that this was rather far-fetched in view of the watermark, etc.

Mr. Schweinhaut then made the request that we have [redacted] who will be present at the Grand Jury proceedings, contact the Associated Press in Cleveland to ascertain when, where and under what circumstances Sparks turned over the photographic copy of the letter in question to be published. I pointed out to him that the only way we can do this is to directly ask the Associated Press; that they will, undoubtedly, put a story on the wire that the FBI is investigating the AP and their handling of this matter. Mr. Schweinhaut said that, of course, this would be undesirable. I suggested that Mr. Schweinhaut have someone call the head of the AP in Washington on a personal basis and ask if the desired information could be obtained from their Cleveland Office. He replied he thought this would be a better procedure and would do so.

Respectfully,

Edward A. Tamm
JAN 12 1944



FLW:lem
1-8-44

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM CLARK

Attention: Mr. Henry Schweinhaut

Reference is made to the conversation between Mr. Schweinhaut and Mr. E. A. Tamm of this Bureau on January 7, 1944, during which Mr. Schweinhaut requested that [REDACTED]

b3

[REDACTED] be available in connection with the Grand Jury proceedings on Wednesday, January 12, 1944.

[REDACTED]
request, I have made arrangements for [REDACTED] to be in Washington, D. C., on the morning of January 12, 1944. As suggested by Mr. Schweinhaut, [REDACTED] will contact him on that date.

Very truly yours,

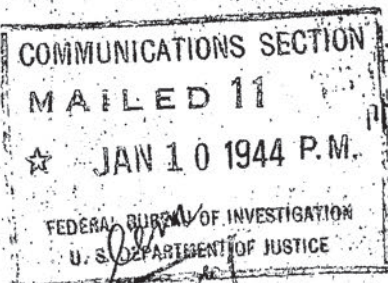
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John Edgar Hoover
Director

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DATE 9/26/85 BY [REDACTED]

JAN 9 1 21 PM '44
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Starke _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____



JAN 8 5 47 PM '44
RECEIVED READING ROOM
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Sh

lw

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



ELK:lem
Time: 1:10 p.m.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 8, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Reference is made to your conversation with Mr. Henry Schweinhaut of the Criminal Division on January 7, 1944, and specifically to his request that [redacted] be present for the grand jury proceedings in Washington on Wednesday, January 12, 1944. b3

Following your instructions, SAC Boardman of the Cleveland office was telephonically contacted. Mr. Boardman stated [redacted] to appear before such a grand jury. Mr. Boardman was therefore instructed to have [redacted] proceed to Washington, D. C., his departure from Cleveland being such that he would arrive in Washington, without fail, on the evening of Tuesday, January 11, 1944. Mr. Boardman was instructed to have [redacted] contact either Supervisor F. L. Welch or myself upon his arrival in order that any additional arrangements can be made in connection with his appearance before the grand jury. Mr. Boardman advised that these instructions would be followed. 2

ACTION:

There is attached a memorandum to Mr. Clark of the Criminal Division, marked for the attention of Mr. Schweinhaut, advising that [redacted] will be available in Washington on the morning of January 12, 1944. 62-74416-23 21 JAN 12 1944 b3

Respectfully,

D. L. Ladd

b6
b7C



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

JFB:MIP
1/8/44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

Attention: Mr. Henry Schweinhaut

This has reference to the matter of the contemplated Grand
Jury inquiry [redacted]

b3

I am in receipt of material from the office of Mr. Hopkins which was forwarded by his secretary Miss Dorothea E. Krauss, which is enclosed for any value which it may have to you. The enclosures are identified as (1) a letter to Mr. Hopkins from Myra Morrison, 908 Hunt Street, Akron 6, Ohio, dated January 3, 1944 (2) the form letter with enclosure dated January 4, 1944, from the Republican Nationalist Committee, 82 West Washington Street, Chicago 2, Illinois, over the signature of William J. Grace, secretary (3) a copy of the memorandum dated January 6, 1944, prepared by Miss Krauss concerning a telephonic conversation which she had with an individual identified as Miss Lee Boone (4) the letter addressed to Miss Dorothea E. Krauss dated January 6, 1944, by Marshall L. Farmer, 21 S Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., as well as the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer pamphlet which was one of the attachments to his letter.

With reference to the specimen of the signature of Mr. Hopkins which Mr. Marshall Farmer forwarded with his letter of January 6, 1944, to Miss Krauss, you are advised that this specimen is being retained in the Bureau for any examination you may request in the future.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 12

JAN 11 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

RECEIVED READING ROOM
JAN 9 12 44 PM '44

RECEIVED READING ROOM
JAN 8 6 47 PM '44

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F B I
JAN 8 12 22 PM '44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 6th, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR J EDGAR HOOVER

Mr. Hopkins asked me to
send you the attached two letters
and also my record of the telephone
conversation I had with Miss Lee
Boone, for your information.

Sincerely yours,

D.E. Krauss

D.E. Krauss

Secretary to Mr. Harry L. Hopkins

encls. re
Lee letter.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY

16 ENCL
to 32

100-74416-24
F B I

21 JAN 12 1944

Boone

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 7th
1944

b6
b7C
Mr. Tolson
Mr. E.A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER

Under date of Dec. 28th, in
a letter addressed to Mr. E.A. Tamm,
I outlined a telephone conversation
which I had with the writer of the
enclosed letter. I think my letter
to Mr. Tamm will explain Mr. Farmer's
letter and the autograph attached.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Sincerely yours,

21 JAN 12 1944

D.E. Krauss

Secretary to Mr. Harry L. Hopkins

encl. Letter of Jan. 6, 1944
from Marshall L. Farmer,
H.L.H. autograph when he was
Secy. of Commerce
M.G.M. publicity on Farmer

COPIES DESTROYED

44 NOV 9 1964

JAN 12 1944

Five - [initials]

THE WHITE HOUSE

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,

Federal Bureau of Investigation,

Department of Justice,

10th and Constitution, NW

BY HAND

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/26/85 BY [REDACTED]

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44 NOV 9 1964

b6
b7c

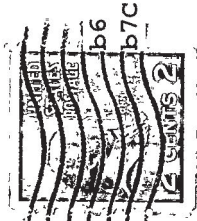


Secretary of Commerce.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY 

b6
b7c

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44 NOV 9 1964



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED BY
DATE 9/25/85

Miss Dorothea E. Krauss
c/o Harry C. Hopkins
The White House
Washington, D.C.

MARSHALL L. FARMER
21 S STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Marshall L. Farmer
21 S Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

January 6, 1944

Miss Dorothea E. Krauss
c/o Harry C. Hopkins
The White House
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

Dear Miss Krauss:

Enclosed please find the signature of Harry Hopkins that Jim Farley gave me a few years ago, thinking it may be of interest to you, even using my name if you so desire.

I am hoping you will be kind enough to have Mr. Hopkins autograph one of his photographs for me to add to my collection. I hope I am not asking too much of you, but really would appreciate one of his signed photos in my collection.

Also enclosed is a Metro Goldwyn Mayer pamphlet telling about the recent Bond Drive I made for the Treasury Department and M. G. M. with Miss Virginia Weidler, star of the picture "Youngest Profession."

Thanking you in advance for the kindness in granting the above favor, I am

Faithfully yours,

/s/ Marshall Farmer

en

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44 NOV 9 1964

65-7444-25

M-G-M Bi-Weekly Co-operative Campaign Service

(No. 651)

PERSONAL APPEARANCES BY MARSHALL FARMER, CHAMPION
AUTOGRAPH COLLECTOR, HIGHLIGHT EXPLOITATION CAMPAIGNS
ON "THE YOUNGEST PROFESSION"



"THOUSANDS CHEER"

• • • • Once again THE FRIENDLY COMPANY comes through with a smash gratis promotion to aid exhibitors. Below are tear sheets showing the results of a highly successful tour made by Marshall Farmer, champion autograph collector, in conjunction with recent engagements of THE YOUNGEST PROFESSION. Newspapers, as you will note went heavily for stories of this popular American pastime—autograph collecting. Don't fail to cash in on this angle by utilizing the host of swell stunts suggested in the Exploitation Section of the Press Book.



COPIES DESTROYED

ISSUED BY METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER EXPLOITATION DEPARTMENT (W. R. FERGUSON),
1540 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY

Printed in U. S. A.

44 NOV 9 1954

M-G-M *Honor Roll*

Showmen whose campaigns are used in this Cooperative Service Sheet will be presented with M-G-M Honor Roll Buttons and have their names placed on the M-G-M Exploitation Honor Roll.

Showmen receiving Honor Roll recognition six times within six months will receive a handsome award plaque for their valuable accomplishments.

Below is presented an Honor Roll Campaign on;

"STAND BY FOR ACTION"

NEWSPAPER CO-OPERATION

Planted the 5 column x 5" six-day serial story in the Roseburg Chieftain. Planted the three-day Naval-Ship-Identification Contest for which the management of the theatre gave a first prize of \$5.00 in War Stamps, with additional prizes of passes

MOST-MEMBERS-OF-FAMILY-IN-SERVICE PROMOTION

Took over very large street-window of J. C. Penney Company, in which photographs of men and women in service, from Roseburg, were displayed . . . showing name, rank, branch-of-service . . . and as near as possible, present location.

To the Mother having the greatest number of members of her family in service (sons, daughters, brothers and sisters) a prize of a free telephone call to any point in the United States, to a member of her family in the armed forces.

HERALDS

5000 Heralds, urging the buying of War Bonds bought, and distributed by hand throughout town, and in lobby of theatre.

"STAND-BY-FOR-ACTION" STAMP BOOTH

Brought Stamp Booth from lobby and placed on sidewalk in front of theatre . . . lettered it across top . . . "STAND BY FOR ACTION" STAMP BOOTH . . . and sniped it with 10 x 14 stills, portraits, etc. of MGM stars, feature players and scenes from pictures.

JUNIOR REPORTER CONTEST

Planted Junior Reporter Contest . . . in which newspaper invited readers to compete for right to interview Robert Taylor by letter . . . asking five questions. Winning contestant had his interview printed in paper . . . along with his picture . . . picture of Bob Taylor . . . and by-line. First prize, in addition, was \$5.00 in War

Submitted by:

HOWARD HERTY
M-G-M EXPLOITER

Stamps and a one month's pass to the theatre. Next fifteen best received passes to theatre during run of the picture.

HIGH SCHOOL POSTER CONTEST

Arranged with Art teacher in Roseburg High School for the sponsoring of a "STAND BY FOR ACTION" POSTER EXHIBIT. All art students invited to submit an original poster over the heading "STAND BY FOR ACTION" that would have a patriotic flavor . . . one urging aid to Red Cross, Civilian Defense, Buy-Bonds . . . "button-your-lip" theme, etc.

Winning poster awarded \$5.00 in War Stamps . . . and all submitting posters given a 10 x 14 portrait of an MGM star or featured player. Posters on display in lobby of theatre, with student's name, etc.

"STAND BY FOR ACTION" DATE CARDS

Used 1000 boy-and-girl date cards . . . numbered, with free admission given to a small number of cards having similar numbers. Had numbers keyed so that only about 25 could possibly get together.

BOWLING SWEEPSTAKES

Put posters in Bowling Alley in Elks Club . . . with scene from picture . . . play-dates, etc. . . . and offering a pair of passes for the daily high score, for a week before opening.

WINDOW CARDS

50 Window cards placed in windows of stores, hotel lobbies, etc., throughout city.

PENNIES DISPLAY

Used Pennies Display in window of U. S. National Bank of Oregon . . . with pile of 5000 pennies, poster with headline . . . "STAND BY FOR ACTION"—BE PATRIOTIC, get your pennies into circulation, etc., with 15 passes to those coming nearest to estimating actual number of pennies in pile.

Campaign put across by:

DONN RADABAUGH
HUNT'S INDIAN THEATRE
ROSEBURG, ORE.

EAT:KLM
t - 12-28-43

7 23

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

For your information, I am transmitting herewith a copy of a memorandum which I have today addressed to the Attorney General with reference to the refusal of Mr. C. Nelson Sparks of Akron, Ohio to furnish Bureau representatives with the original of the letter allegedly written by Harry Hopkins to Mr. Umphrey Lee.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
 Coffey _____
 Glavin _____
 Ladd _____
 Nichols _____
 Rosen _____
 Tracy _____
 Acers _____
 Carson _____
 Harbo _____
 Hendon _____
 Mumford _____
 Starke _____
 Quinn Tamm _____
 Nease _____
 Gandy _____

62-1119-26

Eat 5

EAT:DS

t. 1-3-43

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/25/85 BY [redacted]

b6

b7c

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

With reference to the photographic copy of the letter allegedly written by Mr. Harry Hopkins to Dr. Humphrey Lee, which copy was furnished to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by Mr. Henry Schweinhaut, you are advised that an examination of this letter has been made in the Bureau's Technical Laboratory and it has been compared with the typewriting and signature appearing on a letter addressed to the Attorney General under date of December 27, 1943, by Mr. Hopkins. It is practically an impossibility to make a satisfactory typewriting or handwriting identification of a photographic document because so much of the minute detail necessary for Laboratory examination is lost in the photographic process. There is, however, in the photographic reproduction of the Dr. Humphrey Lee letter a variety of questionable factors which emphasize the necessity for obtaining the original letter. It is not possible from the photographic reproduction of this letter to render any final opinion as to the handwriting or typewriting appearing therein.

In order to permit an accurate determination as to the genuineness of this letter, I urge that effort be made to obtain the original letter.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - Solicitor General Fahy

CC - Assistant Attorney General Tom Clark

Attention: Mr. Schweinhaut

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
London
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

2:16 PM
JAN 3 1943

2 MC

237 299

Handwritten signatures and initials.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:DS

January 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

SECURITY DIVISION

-ROUTING-

Mr. Mr. Ford
Mr. Alden
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Starnes
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Welch

A confidential informant associated with one of the wire services in Washington advised me telephonically on January 7th that one of his reporters had on the previous day seen the original letter allegedly written by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Humphrey Lee. This reporter stated that the stationery appeared to be genuine White House stationery and that he held it up to the light and clearly saw the Government watermark on the stationery. The reporter, according to informant, had formerly covered the White House and is generally familiar with White House stationery. According to the reporter, one word in the last line of the letter was originally circled in pencil and a line drawn from the circle to the upper righthand corner of the letter where something was written in pencil. This has all been erased but is still more or less legible. The reporter was told that this word was something originally written on the letter by Dr. Humphrey Lee and later erased.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

62-74466-27
Very truly yours,
JAN 12 1944

Edw. A. Tamm

b6
b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
January 4, 1944

HBL:MMC
Time: 12:25

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

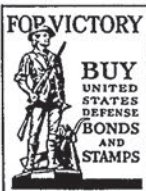
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/85 BY [redacted]

In your absence Mr. Schweinhaut of the Department talked to me concerning the photostatic copy of the alleged Hopkins' letter which he left with you the other day. He stated they would like to have it back for the time being and wanted to send a messenger for it. I told him I would like to consult with you before sending it to him, since you might have something in mind on it. Mr. Schweinhaut mentioned that you had finished with it and had told him the Bureau could not do anything without the original; that they were probably going to get a grand jury under way soon and in the meanwhile wanted to see the photostatic copy; that Mr. Clark has not yet seen it. I explained you would return shortly and I would consult with you and then send this copy to him. He requested it be sent to Mr. Clark's office as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

H. B. Long

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____ b6
Miss Beahm _____ b7C
Miss Gandy _____



25 JAN 12 1944

Maximal Received from Jones on 2-15-44

62-74766-28
F B I
21 JAN 12 1944

5-28/8/12

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



EPC:AF

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 1, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: Harry Hopkins' Letter to
Dr. Humphrey Lee

Mr. Appel suspects that this photographic copy (which was furnished us for study) of the letter in question may be a "photographic fake". He sets out detailed reasons for his suspicion along this line in the attached memorandum.

I do not think we have sufficient proof at this time to state that it is a photographic fake. There are some indications to that effect.

At this time we can definitely state that the typewriting in the date line of the questioned letter was not made on the typewriter reported to be the only one in Harry Hopkins' office. With regard to the balance of the typewriting and the signature it is not possible to render final opinions because of the handicap of the photograph.

If the purported original letter could be obtained it is believed that the question of the signature could be resolved as well as that of the remainder of the typewriting.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____ b6
Mr. Nichols _____ b7C
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____



23 JAN 12 1944

File

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C



62-74464-29

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JED:RB

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 6, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. APPEL

Re: Examination of Photographic Copy
of Letter Purported to have been
written by Harry Hopkins to Dr.
Umphrey Lee.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____ b6
Mr. Tracy _____ b7C
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

This is to advise that I have examined the photograph which purports to be a reproduction of a letter written by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee. Careful observation of this photograph reveals certain peculiarities which could have resulted from efforts to produce a photographic simulation but which, in my opinion, are also explainable in other ways.

For instance, the watermark which is unusually prominent in this photograph would naturally be prominent as a result of the black background which was apparently used as a backing for the document. The black background could also explain the darkness noticeable around the borders of the document. The top border of the document is not as it should be but could be attributed to light streaks. The smudged areas and dirt specks on the photograph are not significant, in my opinion, since the document could have been handled a great deal prior to the making of this photograph. The great number of apparent creases in the paper is cause for suspicion, but after examining them carefully I am convinced in my own mind that they are actually folds in the paper. These folds are not clear-cut as the edge of a paper would be but are diffused in appearance. The signature appears unusually dark, but since it is a known fact among photographers that copy photographs lose detail and pick up contrast after each copy stage, this might account for the signature appearance. The use of filters might also account for the darkness of the signature. The obliteration of the word or words in the first sentence, in my opinion, cast suspicion on the entire document. After examining this area under magnification I feel that the obliteration took place on the original document rather than on a negative. I base this conclusion on the partially vague outline of the obliterated area. If the area had been scraped from a negative the outlines would be very clear-cut and probably would reveal some individual scratches.

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

COPIES DESTROYED

44 NOV 9 1964

JAN 13 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Appel

Page Two

OPINION: It is my opinion that this photograph which has been offered as evidence of the existence of an original is not good or accentable proof in view of the possibilities of forgery and simulation and also since part of the message has been obliterated. I further believe that it would be possible to create such a photograph by photographic means alone, although I do not think that such is the case here. In fact, I believe that the photograph does depict an original document of some kind although whether this document or signature is a forgery or not, I am not qualified to judge.

Respectfully,



James R. Dunlop

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



EPC:AF

General Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: Harry Hopkins' Letter to
Dr. Humphrey Lee

Mr. Dunlop, Laboratory photographer, returned from leave this morning and I have had him also look over copies of the photograph of the Hopkins letter.

Although Dunlop agrees that the letter could have been manipulated photographically, he is in disagreement with Appel to the point that he is not willing to state that it is such a photographic fake and believes it could have been the photograph of a single document.

This is substantially the position that I suggested the Bureau should take at this time, in my memorandum of January 1, namely, that we do not have sufficient proof at this time that it is a photographic fake.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey



JAN 5 1944

7a

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/83 BY SP18

62-74466-31
JAN 2 1944

5:03PM
JER:TPB

January 13, 1944

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
TAMM
LADD
NICHOLS

Assistant Attorney General Tom Clark called me this afternoon to advise that Sparks had given him the original of the "Hopkins letter", and that Sparks had stated Briggs came to him and wanted to collaborate on his book, "One Man-Wendell Wilkie". Sparks further told Clark that Briggs told him about the letter, stating [redacted] by Ickes arrangement, that he, Sparks, was not interested at first, but later became interested and gave Briggs \$125 to go to Dallas; that Lee told Briggs he would only read the letter back [redacted] through Ickes, through Briggs to Sparks.

b7D

Mr. Clark also stated he had interviewed Briggs who stated he knew nothing about the letter. I told Mr. Clark this was untrue; that I had learned through Ickes that Briggs had seen Sparks while the letter was in town several weeks ago and had discussed the letter with Sparks, although he claimed he had not given the letter to Sparks. I also advised Mr. Clark of the information I had obtained regarding Briggs travelling to Oklahoma, getting the original [redacted] after Hopkins had denied the authenticity of the letter.

b7D

Mr. Tolson _____ Mr. Clark stated Sparks went to New York to obtain
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____ same telegrams and a letter that was transmitted with the
Mr. Clegg _____ "Hopkins letter". [redacted]

b3

Mr. Glavin _____

Mr. Ladd _____

Mr. Nichols _____

Mr. Rosen _____

Mr. Tracy _____

Mr. Carson _____

Mr. Coffey _____

Mr. Hendon _____

Mr. Kramer _____

Mr. McGuire _____

Mr. Quinn Tamm _____

Mr. Nease _____

Miss Gandy _____

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECORDED

INDEXED

12-7-66-32
25 JAN 14 1944

37 JAN 14 1944

EAT:DS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

33

January 12, 1944

9-26-85

b6
b7C

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM C. CLARK

Appropos of my telephonic conversation with you this afternoon, I wanted to advise you of information which I have received from a reliable but confidential source with reference to the so-called Harry Hopkins-Umpfrey Lee letter.

The Bureau's informant states that C. Nelson Sparks recently talked to two United States Senators about the letter and told them that while he, Sparks, was writing his book about Wendell Willkie, Mr. Briggs of Secretary Ickes' office came to Sparks and advised him of the Hopkins' letter. Mr. Briggs stated that the letter was in the possession of a [redacted] of Oklahoma, who was a very close friend of Mr. Ickes and who had advised Mr. Ickes of the letter. Mr. Briggs inquired whether Sparks would like to use the letter in his book and when he answered in the affirmative, Mr. Briggs then proceeded to Oklahoma to secure the letter from [redacted] showed Mr. Briggs the letter and allowed him to copy it but would not permit him to take the original. Sparks obtained the copy from Mr. Briggs and included it in his book. When Mr. Hopkins first declared that the letter was a forgery, Sparks called Mr. Briggs and Mr. Briggs inquired whether Sparks would like to have the original letter. Sparks said that he had to have it. Mr. Briggs then contacted [redacted] and Sparks proceeded to Oklahoma and obtained the original letter, which [redacted] turned over to him. [redacted] also told Sparks that the erased handwriting in the upper righthand corner was the handwriting of Umpfrey Lee.

b7D

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

✓
Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Humphord
Starke
Tamm
Nease
Gandy

MAILED 12

JAN 13 1944

8/16/74

SPJTER/24/CA
for 24,664



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

EAT:DS

January 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Acers	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Starke	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

b7D

[redacted] called with reference to the Harry Hopkins-Umphrey Lee letter and advised in confidence as follows:

Sparks recently talked to Senator Wheeler and Senator Nye about the Hopkins' letter and told them that while he, Sparks, was writing his book about Wendell Willkie, Mr. Briggs of Secretary Ickes' office came to Sparks and advised him of the Hopkins' letter. Briggs stated that the letter was in the possession of [redacted] a [redacted] of Oklahoma, who was a very close friend of Ickes and who had advised Ickes of the letter. Briggs inquired whether Sparks would like to use the letter in his book and when he answered in the affirmative, Briggs then proceeded to Oklahoma to get the letter from [redacted] showed Briggs the letter and allowed him to copy it but would not permit him to take the original. Sparks obtained the copy from Briggs and included it in his book. When Hopkins first declared that the letter was a forgery, Sparks called Briggs and Briggs inquired whether Sparks would like to have the original letter and Sparks said he had to have it. Briggs then contacted [redacted] and Sparks proceeded to Oklahoma and obtained the original letter, which [redacted] turned over to him.

[redacted] also told Sparks that the erased handwriting in the upper righthand corner was the handwriting of Umphrey Lee.

Respectfully,

Edw. A. Tamm

9/26/85
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/16/19 BY [redacted]
fa 24664

#256586

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152-24664-33
F B I
25 JAN 14 1944

Memo. 1-12-44
Clark
44
Q

January 14, 1944

10:01AM

JEL:ITA

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. TAMM
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS

Henry Schweinhaut returned my call and I advised him the story which Sparks told regarding the details of the political meeting in Chicago, at which Sparks spoke, was true. I told Schweinhaut the people who arranged the meeting took up a collection to defray any expenses, which money was later placed in the vault of the hotel in which Sparks was registered. Sparks, however, would not take the box of money when he left the next morning, stating it did not belong to him, that it had merely been registered in his name because the vault was for the use of hotel guests only. Later in the day, the master of ceremonies of the meeting came to the hotel and claimed the money.

Schweinhaut asked whether or not we had any more news on the Oklahoma angle, and I advised him we had not, that we were expecting to hear soon.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Hammford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

62-71466-34

12-25-50
71466-34

JAN 1 1945

62-74486

JKM:PES

1/14/45

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

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RECORDED FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Pursuant to the specific request directed to this Bureau in the G. Nelson Sparks matter, there are set forth hereinafter the results of the various inquiries:

George N. Briggs

George N. Briggs is presently employed as an Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior at \$5500 per year. He has been employed in this position since June 1, 1942. Prior thereto he was a specialist in the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense, Washington, D. C., at a salary of \$4600. He obtained this position, which was an excepted appointment, on August 11, 1941. Prior to that time he engaged in the newspaper business. In order to obtain his position with the Petroleum Coordinator, he gave the following references on his application:

G. Nelson Sparks, Vice President, Sparks Simplex Corporation, Norwalk, Connecticut, (probatly, Ohio).

Frank Bennett, Publisher of the Mass Union, Rochester, New York.

Charles J. Moss, Vice President, Joyce Insurance Company, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Alfred H. General Counsel, 700 Polvin Building, Duluth, Minnesota.

A. F. Jones, Great Northern Railway, St. Paul, Minnesota.

b7D

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
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Murford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

He has lived at five residences in the Washington area since 1941. The latest residence of record is 2084 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia.

62-74486-35

JAN 26 1945

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Prior to entering Government service, Briggs, who was born on May 6, 1908, engaged in the newspaper and publishing business. He worked for such papers as the New York Tribune, Hamilton Tribune, Chicago American, Chicago Tribune, New York Press, Dispatch, Pioneer Press of St. Paul, all between July, 1906, and May, 1923. From May, 1923, until June, 1941, he owned and directed the Minnesota Legislative Research Bureau with an estimated income of \$5,000 per year. In this venture he had such clients as General Mills, Incorporated, U. S. Steel Corporation, Great Northern Railway, Commerce Clearing House, Minneapolis Honeywell Register Company, Cream of Wheat Corporation, Tobacco Merchants Association. Briggs once gave as his reason for discontinuing the Minnesota Legislative Research Bureau that he disagreed with his clients on politics and Presidential candidates, and because of his views he was forced to sell his business.

[redacted] was interviewed January 13, 1944, at New York City. It may be of interest to note that his permanent residence and the headquarters of his company, [redacted] are at Bartlesville, Oklahoma. His New York office is at [redacted] and when in that city, he usually stops at the Ambassador Hotel.

[redacted] categorically and emphatically denied that he had any knowledge of the instant matter until publicity concerning it recently appeared in the press. He stated that he does not know George A. Briggs; that he has never resided in Dallas, Texas; and that he neither arranged a meeting for himself with Briggs there, nor made any arrangements for Briggs to meet anyone else. He stated that he has no recollection of ever having met Mr. Andrew Lee. With specific reference to the letter under consideration, [redacted] made the positive statement that he had never had the letter and had never had anything to do with it. He stated that he is, of course, acquainted with Mr. Harold Ickes in connection with the latter's position as oil administrator.

C. Nelson Sparks
Cheraman Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

Advice has been received that C. Nelson Sparks registered at the Cheraman Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, at 9:35 a.m. on January 10, 1944, and checked out at 9:19 a.m. on January 11, 1944. He was reportedly in Chicago in connection with a meeting of the Republican Nationalist Revival Committee on January 10, 1944.

It was determined that during the above-mentioned meeting a collection was taken and thereafter an individual named Davies took two cigar boxes

Memorandum for the Attorney General

containing the monies so collected to the hotel desk, with the request that they be placed in the hotel vault. Inasmuch as this individual was not a guest of the hotel, the clerk declined his request. Jones then requested that they be deposited in the vault in the name of C. Nelson Sparks, who was registered as a guest, and secured compliance with that request. Mr. Sparks appeared extremely angry when he learned of this fact at the time he checked out of the hotel, and it was the opinion of the sources of this information that he had no knowledge up to that time of the checking of these boxes in his name.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COPY

25

December 28, 1943

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

I have your letter of December 27th, and have directed an immediate investigation of the forged letter to which you refer.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Francis Biddle
Attorney General

Honorable Harry L. Hopkins
The White House

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

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2 ENCL 18

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*Material from
which these
copies made
returned to
Mr. [unclear]
1/6/44
[unclear]*

INDEXED		62-79783-36	
F	B	I	
18	JAN 17 1944		
[initials]		[initials]	

JAN 17 1944

COPY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 27th

19 43

The Attorney General,
Department of Justice
10th and Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [REDACTED]

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b7c

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

The Washington Times Herald of Sunday, December 26th, 1943, published a photograph of a letter which I am alleged to have written. This letter is a forgery.

I wish you would be good enough to determine what Federal statutes have been violated by the perpetrators of this forgery and take whatever action the law permits.

Cordially yours,

/s/ HARRY L. HOPKINS

ENCLOSURE

62-7441-36

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 17, 1943

Dear Umphrey:

What has been done in the matter? Will you write me, please. What developments in the other situation? Willkie is going to be the man, in my opinion, and I can promise you good cooperation from that quarter if you think it would be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Hopkins

Dr. Umphrey/Lee
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY

b6
b7c

ENCLOSURE

36

JFB:TD

January 8, 1944

Mr. Louis B. Seltzer
Editor
The Press
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Seltzer:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

I have had referred to me a copy of the article which appeared in your editorial column on December 29, 1943, and which concerns the disputed letter recently publicized by Mr. C. Nelson Sparks of Akron, Ohio, purporting to bear the signature of Honorable Harry L. Hopkins.

My purpose in communicating with you is to bring to your attention the fact that the limited action taken by Agents of this Bureau with regard to the matter was performed strictly in accordance with the specific instructions of the Attorney General of the United States. I feel that this information should be in your possession, especially in view of the hope expressed in the final paragraph of the item of reference which appeared in your editorial column on December 29 last.

As of additional interest, I would like to refer to the release which was made by Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark of the Department of Justice on January 6, 1944, indicating that a Federal Grand Jury in the District of Columbia will, within the following week, begin an investigation of the circumstances "surrounding the publication of a letter purportedly written by Harry L. Hopkins on August 17, 1943, to Dr. Gephrey Lee, of Dallas, Texas, and recently made public by C. Nelson Sparks, of Akron, Ohio." The release also pointed out that the investigation was being made to determine whether there existed a violation of Section 22-1401, Title 22, of the District of Columbia Code, making it a criminal offense to "make or publish a forgery with intent to injure another."

With best wishes and kind regards,

J. Edgar Hoover

Tolson	
E. A. Tamm	
Clegg	
Glavin	
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Nichols	
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Carson	
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Mumford	
Starke	
Quinn Tamm	
Nease	
Gandy	

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 12
★ JAN 10 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WELCH

RECEIVED-OFFICE
FBI
JAN 10 5 30 PM '44

RECEIVED READING ROOM
JAN 10 11 40 AM '44
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

JFB:TD
1-8-44

RECORDED
62-74466-37
Honorable Harry L. Hopkins
The White House
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

DECLASSIFIED BY

ON 9-26-85

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b7C

Dear Harry:

I have received the communications of January 6 and January 7, 1944, respectively, forwarded by Miss Dorothea E. Krauss with relation to the letter purportedly possessed by C. Nelson Sparks. Copies of the inclosures are returned with the thought in mind that you might desire them for your files. The copies are identified according to the date of the communication from Miss Krauss with which they were received.

The communication of January 6, it is noted, transmitted letters received by you from Myra Morrison, 906 Hart Street, Akron, Ohio, and William J. Grace, Secretary, Republican Nationalist Revival Committee, Chicago, Illinois, in addition to a record of the telephonic conversation which was had between Miss Krauss and an individual identifying herself as Miss Lee Boone. With the communication of January 7, 1944, Miss Krauss inclosed the letter of January 6th which she received from Marshall L. Farmer, 21 S Street, N. W., Washington, D.C., along with the inclosures which accompanied his letter, including a specimen of your handwriting as Secretary of Commerce.

All of the material, with the exception of the specimen of your signature, has been forwarded to Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark in the Criminal Division of the Department for appropriate attention. He is being advised, of course, that the specimen of your handwritten signature is available for examination.

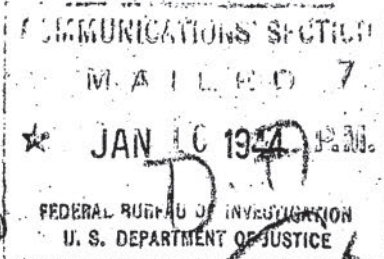
With expressions of my highest esteem,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Inclosure

Folson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
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Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy



Buckley

JAN 10 9 35 AM '44
RECEIVED-DIRECTED
FBI
DEPT OF JUSTICE

Handwritten signatures and initials: "Eu", "Sh", "G", and "Jaw".

62-74466-37

JFB:TD

January 8, 1944

RECORDED

Mr. Robert M. Calfee
308 Euclid Avenue Building
Cleveland, Ohio

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

Dear Mr. Calfee:

I have before me your communication of December 31, 1943, inclosing an editorial which you state appeared in the Cleveland Press of December 29, 1943, entitled "Mr. Hopkins and the FBI."

At the outset, I want you to know that I sincerely appreciate the kind interest which prompted you to communicate with me regarding this matter. Needless to state, your commendatory remarks are a source of gratification to me.

With regard to the subject matter of the editorial which was discussed in your letter, you are advised that the action taken by this Bureau in contacting Mr. Sparks was performed under the specific instructions of the Attorney General. I would like to refer also to the information which has just appeared in the public press in the form of a release by Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark in charge of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, to the effect that a Federal Grand Jury in the District of Columbia will begin an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the publication of the letter purportedly written by Honorable Harry L. Hopkins and recently made public by Mr. C. Nelson Sparks of Akron, Ohio. The release also pointed out that the investigation was being made to determine whether there existed a violation of Section 22-1401, Title 22, of the District of Columbia Code making it a criminal offense to "make or publish a forgery with intent to injure another."

I trust that in the event any information of apparent value to the FBI in connection with its investigative responsibilities comes to your attention that you will not hesitate to forward the same to me.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
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Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
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Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 12
JAN 10 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WELCH

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI
JAN 10 5 29 PM '44
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

ROBERT M. CALFEE
JOSEPH G. FOGG
A.O. DICKEY
JOHN L. MCHORD
E.T. BUTLER
E.G. HALTER
KENNETH RESSEGER
JOHN B. CALFEE

CALFEE AND FOGG

308 EUCLID AVENUE BUILDING

CLEVELAND

14

December 31, 1943.

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Coffey ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
CABLE ADDRESS "CALEOG"
TELEPHONE MAIN 7368
Mr. Acers ✓
Mr. Carson ✓
Mr. Hendon ✓
Mr. Mumford ✓
Mr. Starke ✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted] b6 b7C

Dear Sir:

I have been asked several times by what authority the FBI may investigate private controversies between private citizens. The enclosed editorial from the Cleveland Press, of December 29, one of the leading newspapers in this section of the country, may be of interest to you.

In justice to the FBI and to those who are concerned as to the use of the FBI for the benefit of private citizens, even though they may be prominently connected with the political world, perhaps you may want to write a reply to this to the Editor of the Press so that your reasons for the FBI interfering in, what appears to the public to be, a private controversy between private citizens may be more clearly understood.

I am sure no one appreciates better than you the importance of having the public continue its great confidence in the integrity and usefulness of the FBI.

Respectfully yours,

R.M. Calfes

DEFERRED RECORDING

RMC S

RECORDED
INDEXED

62-77461-37
F B I
18 JAN 17 1944

C. Nelson Sparks

ENC 18
Jm
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1/8/44
acc. Louis B. Dwyer,
Editor, The
Cleveland Press
8 373

70

MR. HOPKINS AND THE FBI

C. NELSON SPARKS, former mayor of Akron, has a letter purporting to bear the signature of Harry Hopkins, President Roosevelt's confidential adviser. The letter purports to promise a Texas college president the co-operation of Willkie, Republican presidential candidate, in a political matter.

Mr. Hopkins says he never wrote or signed such a letter and declares it is a forgery. He has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to help him prove it. Two FBI operatives did call on Mr. Sparks and demanded the letter, which he refused to surrender.

We are at a loss to understand why, in this personal and political quarrel, Mr. Hopkins has any moral or legal right to call in the FBI on his side.

We hope this great federal agency will not deteriorate into the status of a private detective agency doing for individual members of the Administration the kind of personal business that private detectives customarily do for their clients.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

ENCLOSURE

62-74465-37

Harry Hopkins

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark announced today that a Federal Grand Jury in the District of Columbia will next week begin an investigation of circumstances surrounding publication of a letter purportedly written by Harry L. Hopkins on August 17, 1943, to Dr. Umphrey Lee, of Dallas, Texas, and recently made public by C. Nelson Sparks, of Akron, Ohio.

Mr. Clark said the Grand Jury investigation, which will be handled for the Department by Henry A. Schweinhaut, special assistant to the Attorney General, was being made to determine whether there has been any violation of Section 22-1401, Title 22, of the District of Columbia Code, as enacted by Congress, which makes it a criminal offense to make or publish a forgery with intent to injure another.

Mr. Clark said that the Grand Jury would call all persons having knowledge of the facts.

In announcing the Grand Jury investigation, Mr. Clark stated:

"Mr. Sparks recently made available to the press photostats of a letter purportedly written by Mr. Hopkins to Dr. Lee, the President of Southern Methodist University, and a photostatic copy of this letter appeared in the press in the District of Columbia.

"Mr. Hopkins has stated that the letter is a forgery. Dr. Lee has stated that he does not know Mr. Hopkins and never received such a letter.

"Mr. Sparks was subsequently requested to make the original letter available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for expert examination.

(OVER)

100-7444-38
NOT RECORDED
18 JAN 17 1944

This he refused to do, though he stated he would be glad to bring it before any investigating committee or Grand Jury.

"In a letter to the Attorney General dated December 29, 1943, Mr. Sparks stated that if the Department desired the original letter it should proceed through those channels made available through laws enacted by Congress and that he awaits with interest and a full degree of cooperation any legal steps which may be taken."

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
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U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [REDACTED]

62-74466-40

ENCLOSURE

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Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use to Avoid
Payment of Postage, \$300

Mr. C. Nelson Sparks
584 Crestview
Akron, Ohio



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

December 29, 1943

Mr. C. Nelson Sparks
584 Crestview
Akron, Ohio

Dear Sir:

I am informed that you have told agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that, upon my personal request, you will deliver to me the original letter allegedly written by Mr. Harry Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee, President of Southern Methodist University, about which public comment has recently been made.

I should like you to make the letter available to me for appropriate examination. The bearer of this request, a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is authorized to receive the letter for me.

Yours very truly,

Attorney General

After.....days, return to

.....
Lee G. Boone.....
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND.

Mr. Harry Hopkins , (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~)

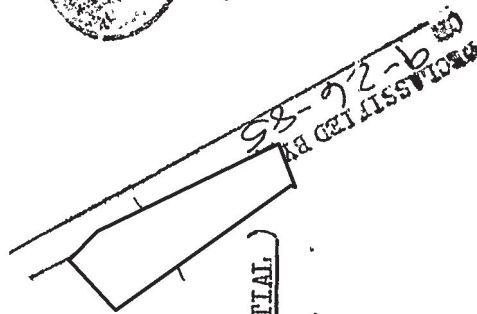
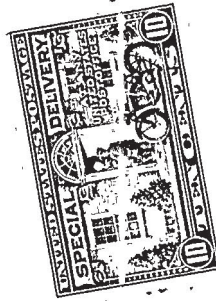
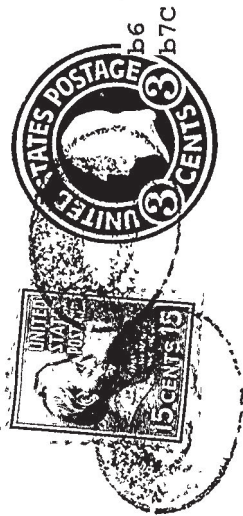
The White House,

Washington, D.C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REGISTERED
340938

SPECIAL DELIVERY



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

TJD:OG

January 11, 1944

Director, FBI

Attention of Asst. Director D. M. Ladd

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Dear Sir:

In accordance with telephonic instructions from the Bureau on January 10, 1944 there is being enclosed herewith a letter from the Attorney General addressed to C. NELSON SPARKS, 584 Crestview, Akron, Ohio, which was forwarded to this office by the Bureau with a letter dated December 29, 1943.

It is noted that this letter was originally forwarded to this office so that it could be turned over to Mr. Sparks who was in New York City, so that he would furnish to agents of this office the letter which is alleged to have been written by Mr. Harry Hopkins. Subsequent instructions from the Bureau were received to the effect that this letter was not to be turned over to Mr. Sparks but was to be held for further instructions from the Bureau.

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY
SAC

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b7c

Do not mark up enclosure
Enclosure
Registered Mail

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/88 BY



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44 NOV 9 1964

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JAN 17 1944	

JAN 17 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

SECURITY DIVISION

-ROUTING-

Mr. Mumford
Mr. Alcorn
Mr. Burton
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Tamm
Mr. W.C. Sullivan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Mr. Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

EAT:DS

January 12, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

The attached letter addressed to Harry Hopkins was furnished to the Bureau by Miss Krauss, Mr. Hopkins Secretary. Photostatic copies of the letter were returned to Miss Krauss. It does not appear that any action is necessary on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Edw. A. Tamm

Attachment

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]



RECORDED

EX-118

18 JAN 17 1944

ENCLOSURE

1944 JAN 17 1944

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b7C

Jan. 11, 1944

Mr. Tamm:

This is the letter about which I spoke
to you this morning. I would very much
appreciate it if we could have four copies.

Thank you.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY

Miss Krauss

b6
b7C

Jan. 11th

2:30 PM

4 photostatic copies of this letter
sent to Miss Krauss by special messenger.
klw

COPIES DESTROYED

44 NOV 17 1964

Captain Wilhelm Dreschel has been operating espionage under a carefully erected protective system in our country, in which he has taken advantage of his affiliation with certain of the international cartels. One of these is apparently the Edsel Ford Co. which in Berlin, employed as their principal attorney, Dr. Heinrich Albert, proven chief of the German espionage system in New York, 1914-17, as soon as word "arrived"; another two employees of General Motors Inc. in Europe was a niece and her husband, of Col. Franz von Papen, whom our government required to be recalled from the Washington Embassy in 1915 because of his espionage. Col. von Papen, in 1924 selected Captain W. Dreschel, to head German espionage in the U.S.A., to which Grand Admiral Erich von Raeder consented, because of Dreschel's expertness in U-boat warfare. Capt. Dreschel has had a system of informing the U-boats of ships outbound from N. Y. He approved the plans for firing the "Normandie" which occurred after she became the U.S.S. LaFayette; but they won't arrest him. His Nazi organization has operated nine or ten vice houses for espionage with the consent of confederates, apparently a corrupt factor in the government of New York City and adjacent New Jersey (the Port area). No matter how much evidence our own Army or Navy Intelligence produce against him, Capt. Dreschel is eased out of the case and not prosecuted. Despite the fact that in the espionage case of the summer of 1938, court of the southern district of New York, the U.S. Army brought evidence showing that Capt. Dreschel had aided in the escape of another German spy, Dr. Ignatz Greibl, whose legal status was that of a United States citizen, holding reserve/commission, U.S. Army, 1st medical corps, involved in German espionage against the U.S. Army and Navy, and provided bail for Dr. Greibl, and that Captain Dreschel, in court as a witness, admitted he had done these things, and was operating under orders from the German government, the U.S. Department of Justice would not prosecute him, and only a short while thereafter, granted Captain Dreschel full United States citizenship. Since when he has been responsible for the fulfilment of the Nazi plan to fire the "Normandie", now the U.S.S. LaFayette. He is here on active duty as an officer of the German Navy, counterespionage service. The U.S. Navy has raised the LaFayette in less time than the Department of Justice has squandered in meditating on how to denaturalize Capt. Dreschel. The Army disposed of the eight German saboteurs in less than sixty days; Capt. Dreschel is head of the Nazi system in the U.S.A.

I hope that you will be successful in clearing up the problem of the forgery of your name. I am confident that it is a thread from the intricate web of Nazism, spun by Capt. Dreschel and his gang. I know that some of the supporters of Gov. Tom Dewey, hope to capitalize upon the lax control of German espionage by the F.B.I., when the election campaign begins. The Nazis and the cartels don't want Fearless Defense of the Republic reelected. But America needs him.

Very sincerely yours ,

Lee Carter Boone.

Lee Carter Boone .

Hyattsville, Md.,
January 8, 1944.

Mr. Harry Hopkins,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

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b7C

My dear Mr. Hopkins :

This presents the requested resume of the matter about which I phoned your secretary. The current AP. reports that you are apparently the victim of a forgery of your name to some controversial political letter, prompts me to direct your attention to the fact that certain Nazi naval and military officers, operating the German espionage system, established in Washington, and New York by the German Embassy in 1914 and actively resumed in 1924, remain here at liberty, despite federal court evidence of their enemy acts, and their known affiliation with George Sylvester Vierecke and other German spies now jailed. These Nazi officers still at liberty had a well organized plan as long ago as 1932 for the procuring of White House stationary, as many as possible of President-elect Roosevelt's personal signatures, which came to my attention when one of the Nazi officers sought to purchase from me a letter I received from Governor F.D. Roosevelt, and on my refusal they attempted to photograph this signature; they also had an extensive collection of signatures of persons closely associated with the President, and analyses of their personal lives, etc. They were operating an espionage agency in business district of Washington, disguised as an advertising agency. They had a plan to destroy the President, which I reported to Col. Louis Howe in 1933, also designating the U.S. government employees whom I knew were cooperating with these Nazi agents. Col. Howe had me brief the evidence for him and told me that these spies in employment of our government would be eliminated via the President's reorganization plan. Col. Howe died before the necessary legislation for reorganization was effected, and the matter was referred to Mr. Raymond Moley, who pigeonholed it, pending his return from London. After Mr. Moley's retirement from the Department of State, Judge Walton Moore tried to find the records but the staff decided that Mr. Moley had kept them. Judge Moore sent me to the U.S. Agent, Hon. Robert M. Bonyng, of the Mixed Claims Commission, Germany and the United States, because Judge Moore thought I had important evidence concerning the complicity of Germany in the firing of the Black Tom, N.J., in 1916, a case unsolved by the Mixed Claims in 1934. They examined my evidence and reserved for their case the parts needed, but said they had no jurisdiction concerning the spies involved who remain in our government's employ. Mr. Bonyng promised to write the President about these spies. I went also to the U.S. Army, G-2, and to the Navy Intelligence about specific activities of these Nazis against the defense forces. Here I found the only integrity and loyalty to our government in this matter that exists in Washington, outside the White House staff members mentioned. But both our Army and Navy

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44 NOV 17 1964

ENCLOSURE

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lacked jurisdiction, except within their establishments, and the Nazis knowing this operate mainly within civilian jurisdiction. The Army and Navy officers sent me to the Department of Justice, the Attorney General's aides said he had no jurisdiction and sent me to Mr. J.E. Hoover, FBI., who said he had no jurisdiction. Secretary Swanson and Senator Wagner each separately credentialed me to the Attorney General, whose aides refused to do anything.

These German espionage activities came under my direct observation in 1914-1918, because I was employed in the U.S. National Museum, in the office where the three senior employees were subsidized by the German Embassy, through Col. Franz von Papen, of the Ambassador von Bernstorff's Staff, and used the National Museum as their espionage headquarters. In 1924, I was employed in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where certain employees cooperated with the same Col. von Papen, then in Berlin, resuming the espionage activities of German in our government. He set up for pay an information service, based on the wholesale theft of U.S. Civil Service personnel papers, from which information was abstracted, to be used for the planting of spies inside our government, etc., which was operated in the Office of Publications, a division of the Secretary of Agriculture's office. This criminal procedure was carried on until about January, 1941, when the F.B.I. arrested Mr. L. Haynes, of the Standard Business Co., of this city, who was later jailed. The persons who organized this system in Agriculture and the C.S. Commission were not disciplined, but remain on the federal payroll, as do also those in the National Museum. In 1925, being deprived of my government employment for the second time, because of my refusal to participate in this German espionage and treason against our country, I went to New York City, and entered the employment of Mr. W. K. Vanderbilt. In connection with a scientific book I was writing for publication, I employed as artist, a German woman who proved to be artist, photographer and confidential assistant to one of these German spy officers, Capt. Lt. W. Wohst, who had been here at the National Museum, in 1916 in the old German espionage gang and participated in the firing of Kingsland, N.J. munitions plant, in 1917, a case in which the Mixed Claims was working in 1932, and for whom I was procuring information. I had access to his place for several years, including his files and met many of his confederates. From all of these I learned that Capt. Wilhelm Dreschel, of the German Navy, alias as an executive of the Nord Deutsches Lloyd Steamship Co., was selected by the German Army High Command, to head German Naval Counterespionage in the United States during this present war, and especially to undermine our President, to prevent his reelection, and to carry on the multiple interests of the Third Reich underground among us. Through U.S. Army and Navy Intelligence operations, several of Capt. Dreschel's staff officers have been jailed or interned, including his naval aide, Comdr. Hans Wolfe, Capt. Lt. W. Wohst and George Sylvester Vierecke, who has been involved in "fixing" things for the benefit of Germany, inside many of our government agencies, and whose subordinates around town have not been disciplined. Capt. Dreschel, Capt. Lt. Heine Claus, formerly of the German Air Corps of World War I, Capt. Fritz Rauche, of Annapolis and Baltimore and New York, also of the German Air Corps, are so far as I know still at liberty and are key men in Capt. Dreschel's Nazi spy ring. Claus was liaison between the recent German Embassy, his wife being a clerk to Admiral Robert Withoef-Finden, naval attache, and other German agents. Capt. Rauche is one of the most highly intelligent and dangerous of Dreschel's aides, in the Washington area.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 11, 1944

EAT:MMC

Time: 10:20

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SAC Drayton of the Chicago Office called to advise of the results regarding the covering of the meeting at which C. Nelson Sparks spoke last night.

The purpose of the meeting generally was to draft McCormick and to drop Willkie. Most of the local politicians there had in mind drafting McCormick. With regard to Sparks' speech, he indicated that the nomination of Willkie in 1940 was a conspiracy of various internationalists. Sparks did mention the Hopkins' letter incidentally and said he was to appear before a Grand Jury within 48 hours. Mr. Drayton stated this was about all Sparks had to say about the letter although the Tribune this morning would indicate he held the letter up and read part of it, which he did not do. There were between 800 and 900 persons present. There was a little trouble with a few of the boys from the Abraham Lincoln school, but the meeting went off fairly smoothly. Sparks also mentioned in his speech that Glenn Frank, former President of the University of Wisconsin, was invited and was mentioned as being the Republican nominee in 1936 because they wanted someone from the Middle West with the idea that in 1940 they wouldn't select an industrialist. He then went on to say that in 1940 Mrs. Ogden Reid gave a party in June of 1940 at which time she invited Willkie, Taft, Thomas Lamont and Lord Lothian, the purpose of the meeting being to have Willkie and Taft commit themselves regarding our entrance into the war. According to Sparks, Taft refused to this but Willkie did and two days later was endorsed by the New York Tribune.

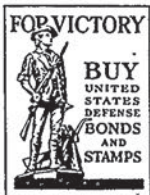
Respectfully,

Edward A. Tamm

CC-287

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]



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62 JAN 19 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____ b3
Miss Gandy _____

b7D

Pursuant to the instructions received from the Department based on [redacted] the Grand Jury in the District of Columbia, I called SAC K. Logan of Oklahoma City, furnished him the necessary facts, and instructed him to immediately arrange an interview with [redacted] to secure from him specific information as to whether he had any knowledge of the letter in question in this case and, if so, complete, detailed facts in that regard.

Mr. Logan subsequently called and advised that the headquarters of [redacted] is at Bartlesville, Oklahoma, but that he had learned through a telephone call that [redacted] is presently in New York City where the offices of that company are at [redacted] and that if he cannot be immediately reached at the offices of [redacted] he can undoubtedly be reached at the Ambassador Hotel where he stays.

b7D

Mr. Logan advised as a matter of interest that [redacted] is an exceptionally good friend of the Bureau, that he has offered every cooperation and, in fact, offered two airplanes on one occasion.

Respectfully,

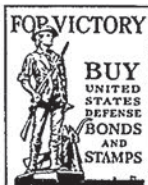
[Signature]
D. M. Mumford
RECORDED
66

4:00 P.M.

In view of the advice received from SAC Logan that [redacted] is presently in New York, I telephonically contacted SAC Conroy on this matter. I referred him to the book "One Man - Wendell Willkie" and the allegation in it about the letter supposedly written by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee of Southern Methodist University. I told him that here in Washington yesterday they had a Grand Jury [redacted]

b7D

b3



12 JAN 17 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

[redacted] I told Mr. Conroy we have now been instructed by the Attorney General's office to have one of the men principally involved, [redacted] interviewed and that they want it done this afternoon if possible. I furnished Mr. Conroy [redacted] name and advice as to where he could be reached in New York, i.e., [redacted] the offices of the [redacted] in New York, or the Ambassador Hotel.

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b7D

I told Mr. Conroy that [redacted]

b3

b3
b7D

b7D

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

b7D

[REDACTED]

I told Mr. Conroy the letter itself, according to a newspaper photograph, is on White House stationery and is dated August 17, 1943. I quoted him the contents of the letter and told him it was signed "Harry Hopkins." I advised him Hopkins has violently and categorically denied in the paper this is his signature, that he had anything to do with the letter, or that it was written by or for him or with his approval.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I advised Mr. Conroy Dr. Lee has been a preacher for 25 years and is one of the outstanding college presidents in the country, and further that he has never been mixed up in politics in any way. I advised him this whole thing is what [REDACTED] and he admits he got his whole story from Briggs, that all he knows is just what Briggs has told him.

b3

I pointed out that on the letter in the upper right corner there is an erasure and that Sparks says that he has been told by Briggs that what was erased was a notation which said, "Dear [REDACTED] What is the meaning of this?" or "What is your interpretation of this, signed Umphrey"; in other words, a notation Dr. Lee put on there to [REDACTED] I also told him that in the sentence: "Willkie is going to be the man, in my opinion, and I can promise you good cooperation..." it happens in the typing of the letter that the word "cooperation" is exactly under the word "Willkie" and there was a circle around the two words, inferring that the notation might have had to do with the words "Willkie" and "cooperation."

b7D

I told Mr. Conroy the instructions were that he personally and one other Agent should get hold of [REDACTED] and find out from him whether he ever did have that letter or have anything whatever to do with it; if he did, then they should get the whole story from him. I advised Mr. Conroy that SAC Logan had advised that [REDACTED] is a good friend of the Bureau and has in the past offered every kind of cooperation. I told him this whole thing involved whether [REDACTED] knows anything about the matter.

b7D

4:16 P.M.

I contacted SA Dennis of the Chicago Office at this time in connection with this matter and told him the following instructions must be followed very carefully. I told him that C. Nelson Sparks was in Chicago

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

the first of this week and made a speech before the Citizens U.S.A. Committee, an organization headed by William J. Grace who has been demanding that Harry Hopkins undergo a lie detector test to determine whether the letter in question was actually written by him. I told him it is understood Sparks stayed at the Sherman Hotel and when he went to check out, apparently around Tuesday forenoon, although the actual date and time are not known, the story is that whoever checked him out told him there was a package for him in the vault; this was indicated by the word "vault" written on the registration. However, Sparks denied that he had anything there. They checked and found a package in the vault for him, brought it out; he looked at the package and said it wasn't his. The hotel had it listed for him and they wanted to settle it right then so they are supposed to have opened the package in front of him and the package was full of money. When Sparks saw the money, he still insisted it wasn't his and he wouldn't take it or have anything to do with it.

I told Mr. Dennis the Bureau wants to know discreetly and definitely whether all this actually happened and that we would like to have this advice this afternoon. I told him to call me back as soon as possible.

5:20 P.M. (F. L. Welch)

At this time SAC Conroy called concerning the previous instructions he had received to immediately locate [redacted] in New York City in order that he could be interviewed concerning this matter. Mr. Conroy stated he had called the [redacted] had left there and they didn't know where he could be reached. They then called the Ambassador Hotel and his phone doesn't answer. Mr. Conroy then raised the question as to the advisability of contacting [redacted] on the night of January 13, stating that [redacted] might not appreciate being interviewed at that time.

b7D

Mr. Conroy was told it was the writer's understanding the Director was most anxious to have [redacted] interviewed at the earliest possible moment, and that unless he was advised to the contrary, every effort should be made to locate and interview [redacted] on the night of January 13.

5:35 P.M. (J. K. Mumford)

Mr. Donegan called to convey a message from Mr. Conroy advising that he is en route to conduct the interview with [redacted] who he had been able to locate and make arrangements with. He will call the results in later this evening.

Respectfully,


J. K. Mumford

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:BK
5:45 P.M.

January 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

SA Dennis of the Chicago Office called back pursuant to my instructions that they check on a story in connection with Sparks and the Sherman Hotel in Chicago. Dennis advised they contacted a confidential informant at this hotel, [redacted] who is the [redacted] and who has been a very reliable contact in the past. b7D

[redacted] determined that Sparks checked in the Sherman Hotel at 9:33 A.M. on January 10, 1944, and left at 9:19 on January 11. He was in Chicago for the Republican Nationalist Revival Committee meeting on the 10th. It was learned that a man by the name of Davies, (may be Michael but they are not certain) brought down two cigar boxes of money representing collections taken up at the meeting and he wanted to leave them in the vault. However, inasmuch as he was not a guest of the hotel, the clerk would not take them. So Davies said they should be put in the name of Sparks who was a guest. When Sparks found out about this he was very mad as he hadn't left the money there himself.

Respectfully,

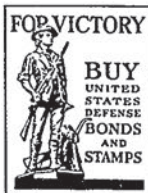
J. K. Mumford

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

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JAN 17 1944

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JAN 1 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.
January 13, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 9/26/86 BY
JEM:MLP

Transcribed: 7:00 PM
Call: 6:30 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Pursuant to instructions given him earlier this afternoon,
SAC Conroy arranged an interview with [redacted] of the [redacted]
[redacted] in New York, and interviewed him to determine any
knowledge he might have of the letter involved in this case, George
Briggs, Dr. Umphrey Lee and C. Nelson Sparks.

Mr. Conroy advised that [redacted] categorically and emphatically denied
that he had any knowledge of this matter until the publicity recently broke in the
papers. He stated that he does not know Briggs; that he has never lived in Dallas;
never met Briggs there; that he never had the instant letter and never had anything
to do with the matter in any way. He stated he is, of course, acquainted with
Mr. Ickes, in connection with the oil administration.

Mr. Conroy advised that [redacted] was friendly and cooperative and
impressed him favorably.



Respectfully,
J. K. Mumford

J. K. Mumford

Serial 68 is letter from NY
covering this-

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

62-74466-147
JAN 17 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



General Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:DS

Time 12:20 P. M. January 14, 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

Mr. David Niles of the White House telephoned at this time with reference to the so-called Harry-Hopkins, Umphrey Lee letter and inquired if there were any new developments. I told him that we understood [redacted] b3

[redacted] and that it would probably be the late afternoon or evening before we received the results of today's hearings.

In answer to Mr. Niles' inquiry, I advised him as to the Bureau's knowledge of Briggs, his background, former employment, etc. in the most general terms.

Very truly yours,



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

RECORDED
INDEXED
Edw. A. Tamm

2-7446-45
JAN 17 1944

12 JAN 17 1944



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:VK
Call 2 p.m.
Transcribed 2:30 p.m.

January 14, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

I called SAC Hottel of the Washington Field Office, advising him that according to Secretary Ickes' secretary, George Briggs' secretary was Mrs. Iris Vaden, the wife of James M. Vaden, and that they are supposed to reside at 2600-16th Street South, Arlington, Virginia. I told him from the information available, it appears that Briggs changed secretaries about six weeks ago inasmuch as Mrs. Vaden had to quit in order to take care of her child.

Mr. Hottel was furnished the pertinent data concerning the correspondence, dates, visits, et cetera, in which Briggs was allegedly involved and I pointed out to Mr. Hottel that Briggs' ex-secretary, Mrs. Vaden, might have some information to confirm or deny the above information; that he should check to determine if Mrs. Vaden at 2600-16th Street South, Arlington, has worked for Briggs and if she is the right woman to have two experienced Agents interview her, exercising the utmost discretion in view of the source of our information. I told Mr. Hottel to advise the Bureau of the names of the interviewing Agents and the time of the interview.

2:15 p.m.

SAC Hottel called to advise that Agents J. E. Nugent and R. H. Kurtzman will contact Mrs. Vaden for the purpose of interviewing her.

Mr. Hottel stated also that on December 10 and 22, 1943, Briggs put through two person to person telephone calls to Sparks in New York City at Murray Hill 4-3900; further, that he sent seven telegrams, three in October to Akron, Ohio, which telegrams will be picked up.

Respectfully,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
J. K. Mumford

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12 JAN 17 1944

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20 JAN 17 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

DML:CSH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/26/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE DIRECTOR

January 14, 1944

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Acers
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Starke
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

I contacted Miss Downes, Secretary to Secretary Ickes. She advised me that Mrs. Iris Vaden was secretary to Mr. Briggs until a month or six weeks ago, at which time she resigned due to her inability to secure a nurse to take care of her youngster; that Mrs. Vaden's husband is James M. Vaden and she believes they reside at 2600 16th Street South, Arlington, Virginia.

I asked Miss Downes to inquire of Secretary Ickes whether an examination could be made of Briggs' travel vouchers for a period of six or eight months in order to determine what trips he had made. I also inquired of Miss Downes with reference to obtaining specimens of typewriters in the office of Mr. Briggs. She stated she would take these two matters up with the Secretary and advise me as soon as she was able to obtain a reply.



12 JAN 17 1944

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd
D. M. Ladd

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B
JAN 17 1944
bgr

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 14, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

JKM:PES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

3:00 p.m.

In connection with my request of SAC Hottel this afternoon to have Agents get in touch with Mrs. Iris Vaden, former secretary to George Briggs, Mr. Hennrich advised that her husband is a senior accountant at the General Accounting Office with a salary of about \$2300 per year. She was a Senior Clerk at a salary of \$2000 per year. She comes from Athens, Ohio; was married in 1938; and has two children. She has been working for the Government since 1939 and Mr. Hennrich said her credit is apparently all right, that she apparently is a nice person.

4:05 p.m.

Mr. Hennrich called to advise that when Agents called at the home of Mrs. Vaden they found no one there and no one was home next door. The Agents are going to stand by and wait for her to return, inasmuch as they think she is just out temporarily. I told Mr. Hennrich to be sure that when the Agents do talk to Mrs. Vaden, if she gives them anything pertinent, they obtain a signed statement.

In connection with the surveillance of George Briggs, Mr. Hennrich said after leaving the Occidental Restaurant he went to Friends School to pick up a child; went to Falls Church to pick up some laundry; drove to Clarendon to do some shopping in a hardware store; and at the time of the call they were in People's Drug Store having a chocolate soda.

5:45 p.m.

Mr. Hennrich subsequently advised that upon interview Mrs. Vaden said she was formerly secretary to Mr. Briggs; that she was on leave from January to May, 1943; left there on October 13 or 14, 1943; that Mr. Briggs never handled or received any personal mail in the office; she never saw him personally writing any in his office; to her knowledge Sparks never came to the office, as she would have remembered him inasmuch as he was from Ohio, this being the state she is from; and she never even heard of Sparks until she read about him in the paper.

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44 NOV 9 1964 The Agents handling the interview were of the opinion that Mrs. Vaden was telling the truth, that she was entirely sincere, and was very cooperative. She also mentioned she knew several Agents in the service and had a lot of respect for them. As a matter of information, Mr. Hennrich said the present secretary to Briggs is named Smith, probably Wanda Smith.



Upon being questioned by Mr. Hennrich as to how long the surveillance should be conducted on Briggs, I told him to keep it on until he is advised to the contrary.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

12 JAN 17 1944

Serial 75 is
letter from
WFO Re this



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 14, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

4:25 p.m.

In connection with the seven telegrams sent by Briggs, Mr. Hennrich called and desired to know if Mr. Schweinhaut had subpoenaed them, inasmuch as they could not be found by Western Union. I told him that to our knowledge they were not, but that I would check to find out and let him know. He gave the following dates of the telegrams:

August 4, 1943)	Briggs to	October 23, 1943)	Briggs to	December 2, 1943)
October 11, 1943)	St. Paul	October 25, 1943)	Akron	Briggs to New York
October 20, 1943)		October 30, 1943)		

The addressee on these telegrams was not known.

5:25 p.m.

After checking with Mr. Tamm, I called Mr. Schweinhaut in the Department and informed him regarding the fact that the telegraph company's copies of the telegrams are missing. He said that so far as he knew they have not been subpoenaed and he was extremely interested. He stated, however, that he had a number of original telegrams and letters which had been secured today and that they would be made available in the morning. I explained to him that our check on these communications up to this point has been extremely discreet to establish sources, but that if we attempt to go further to determine why the copies are missing from the file and who caused them to be missing, we would undoubtedly have to do it through contacts of which we are not so sure, in so far as ~~our~~ confidential status is concerned.

I therefore suggested to Mr. Schweinhaut that he might want to let us check what he has against the dates of the communications, which are in our possession and then consider an official request or a subpoena for the company's records as a means of determining the disposition which had been made of the copies, rather than having us do it as an investigative matter. He stated he thought that would probably be much better, that he would discuss it, and would suggest that we do nothing further until he got in touch with us tomorrow morning. It might be noted that Mr. Schweinhaut was in Mr. Clark's office with Mr. Clark at the time I talked to him.

5:40 p.m.

I called Mr. Hennrich and told him to do nothing further with regard to the communications until he receives additional instructions from the Bureau.

RECORDED

62-74466-49

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford



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44 NOV 9 1964

12 JAN 17 1944

JAN 17 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:VK
Call 11 a.m.
Transcribed

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

January 14, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

7
Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ASAC Hennrich of the Washington Field Office advised that the physical surveillance of George Briggs was picked up about 6:30 last night, after which he was taken directly to his home, where he remained. He was picked up again this morning there and proceeded directly to his office in the Interior Department building.

At 9:25 a.m. Mr. Briggs left his office and went to 729-15th Street, to the 7th floor, a floor which has a common receptionist, occupied by many attorneys and several firms. The attorneys and firms are:

Warren Atherton
T. J. McGrath
Justus S. Wardell
John Lewis Smith, Jr.
Theodore T. Golden
The Johnson Metal Products Company
Manuel J. Davis
G. E. Rosden
Harry Moore
The National St. Lawrence Project Conference
H. O. McBride
Thomas W. McManus
Ernest Schein

b6
b7C

He remained there for approximately thirty to forty-five minutes and then he went to the Bowen Building, 815-15th Street, where he entered room 324-S, which is listed for:

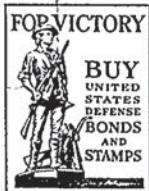
The Dobbins Manufacturing Company
Ansul Chemical Company
R. J. Clark
B. A. Lindquist
Ray Lindquist
Glens Stratton
Swan Rubber Company

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
66

He remained there for approximately forty-five minutes, after which he returned to his office.

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44 NOV 9 1964



62-11411-56		
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JAN 18 1944		
5pm		

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

He asked if any check should be made on any of these individuals but pointed out at the same time that both places where Briggs has gone this morning have public receptionists for a large number of apparently unrelated individuals and firms. I told him no check would be necessary and it is not believed it will be worthwhile to even check the files on any of these persons or firms at the moment. I suggested to Hennrich that if any other information is received which indicates any relationship between Briggs and any one of the occupants of either of the two addresses, he should advise us.

Unless instructed to the contrary, no check will be made since presumably we will be able to take up any future pertinent developments with the persons at these two addresses if it would be of importance.



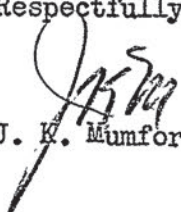
b7D

1:15 p.m.

Mr. Hennrich called, advising that at lunchtime Briggs went to the Roger Smith Hotel, where he met a woman of near his own age who might possibly be his wife. The dining room there was crowded so they went to O'Donnell's, which was also full, and finally wound up at the Occidental, where they were eating at the time of Mr. Hennrich's call.

Mr. Hennrich asked whether it is desired that a check be made to identify this woman and people he appears to casually meet of similar types and I told him to have her surveilled sufficiently to enable us to identify her.

Respectfully,


J. K. Mumford

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:PES
Call: 2:00 p.m.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 15, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

ASAC Hennrich sent to my office photostatic copies of [redacted]

In addition to [redacted]

[redacted] and these are now being searched out and copies will be made and brought to my office later today. Copies of the [redacted] were also delivered by an Agent of the Washington Office to Mr. Appel in the Laboratory for his use;

It is to be noted that [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]



12 JAN 17 1944

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

RECORDED
INDEXED
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62-74460-57		
F	B	I
18 JAN 17 1944		

87

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room b7D _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

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44 NOV 9 1964

62-74466-51

ENCLOSURE

The other
six enclosures
are now exhibit
with memo to
Mr Tamm
Transcripts of Porcigo
interview on
1/17/44 — they are
the black photostatic
negatives

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]
b6
b7C

RM

15-99746-51

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:PES
Call: 2:00 p.m.

January 15, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

In connection with the surveillance of George Briggs, ASAC Hemrich telephonically advised that Briggs left his office at 11:05 a.m. today and went to pick up his daughter, who was at music school on Bancroft and 23rd Streets; he then went home, which was around noon. The Agents assumed he would eat lunch so they went to make a call and when they returned about fifteen minutes later his car was gone. They then went by his office but he did not show up there. They then called his house and asked for him and were told he was not home. They asked if he could be reached at the office and his wife told them she did not expect him to go to the office, but that he would probably return about 6:00 p.m.

Inasmuch as Mr. Hennrich suggested Briggs may have gone out to see Harold Ickes at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, I told him to have an Agent go out there and check on it. He said this would be taken care of.

Mr. Hennrich inquired as to how long the surveillance should be kept on, and I told him to continue it discreetly but thoroughly over the week end, and that he would be instructed further on Monday.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

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b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/83 BY [redacted]

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&
INDEXED



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18	JAN 17 1944	

Sjm

12 JAN 17 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:VK

Call 2:15 p.m.

Transcribed 2:30 p.m.

January 15, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

I called Mr. Henry Schweinhaut to advise him
it has been learned that [redacted]

[redacted] and that we are now arranging to secure
copies.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford
J. K. Mumford



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44 NOV 9 1964

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287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

62-74466-53
F B I
13 JAN 17 1944

RECORDED



CAA:CHM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 15, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

Re: Unknown Subjects; Harry L. Hopkins,
Victim - Misc. (Possible Violation of
District of Columbia Statutes Prohibiting
Forging and Uttering of Documents to the
Injury of Another)

A comparison was made between the typewriting on the
questioned letter signed "Harry L. Hopkins" and the two groups of
typewriting of George N. Briggs.

It was concluded that the typewriting on the questioned
letter was written on a different typewriter from that used to
write any of the Briggs specimens most of which were written on one
typewriter, a machine equipped with a type of an entirely different
design.

Further efforts to develop pencil lines, which may be
scribbled words, and to develop the obliterated typewritten word
were made but were unsuccessful.

Efforts were made to develop latent fingerprints by the
use of iodine fumes without staining the document but no readable
fingerprints were developed. The iodine fumes showed that practically
the entire surface of the paper has lost most of its hard finish and
that portion where the erasures occurred, of the obliterated typewritten
word, of the pencil lines, and in the vicinity of the letterhead, was
found to be especially disturbed.

Respectfully,

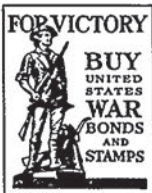
C. A. Appel

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/86 BY [redacted]

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-74111-54
JAN 17 1944

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44 NOV 9 1964

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EAT:DS

RECORDED. 1-17-44

62-74466-55

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JAN 17 1944

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
ON 9-26-85

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

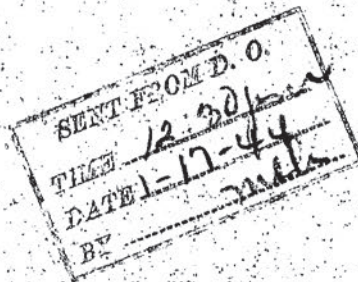
I am transmitting herewith a Memorandum Laboratory Report dated January 15, 1944, relating to the Laboratory's examination of the so-called Harry Hopkins' letter. Additional data which are developed in the Laboratory upon this case will be promptly transmitted to you.

Copies of this memorandum and the enclosure are being furnished to Mr. Tom C. Clark and Mr. Henry Schweinhaut.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Attachment



Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Starke _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

JAN 19 1944



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 15, 1944

MEMORANDUM LABORATORY REPORT

Re: Alleged Forgery
Harry Hopkins Letter

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Mumford	.....
Mr. Starke	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

b6
b7C

The following is a summary of the Laboratory's findings after examining the original letter dated August 17, 1943.

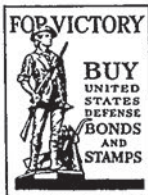
The signature on the questioned letter is not the same as the many known signatures of Mr. Hopkins which were submitted in the form of check signatures and letter signatures. This signature is an imitation of his genuine written signature.

The letter was not written on the typewriter which we are informed is the only one in the White House used by Mr. Hopkins. This conclusion is based on the different characteristics of the type face.

The questioned letter was prepared with a black typewriter ribbon considerably worn. All recent correspondence in our files from Harry Hopkins is prepared with a distinctive blue typewriter ribbon.

The paper upon which the questioned letter is written is somewhat different from a single letter on this size paper of Harry Hopkins' correspondence in our files dated September 23, 1942. The 1942 letter is the only sample of this size which we have to compare with it. This difference is not suggestive that the paper is false inasmuch as Government watermark paper comes from many different sources. It becomes significant, however, if shown to be different from the batch of this size paper in Harry Hopkins' office around the period of August, 1943.

The questioned letter is still under examination in an effort to determine what the scribblings and erasures thereon originally were. However, we are presently under a limitation not to stain the letter in any way, and this handicaps this examination.



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44 NOV 9 1964

RECORDED & INDEXED

SP Coffey
"Noted"

62-74466-55

3

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

62-74486
JKM:PES
1/15/44

b6
b7c

In the C. Nelson Sparks matter it was determined that Mrs. Iris Vaden was employed in the capacity of secretary to Mr. George E. Briggs, Department of the Interior, prior to about the middle of October, 1943, and is, therefore, presumably the secretary to whom Mr. Sparks referred in the pertinent portions of his testimony. It was learned that Mrs. Vaden is the wife of James M. Vaden, a Senior Accountant at the General Accounting Office, and resides at 2500 Sixteenth Street South, Arlington, Virginia, with her husband and two children. Mrs. Vaden came to Washington from Athens, Ohio, and subsequently married in 1935. She has been employed by the Government since 1939.

Mrs. Iris Vaden was interviewed at her home on January 14, 1944. She impressed the Agents as being sincere and entirely cooperative. Mrs. Vaden advised that she was formerly the secretary to Mr. Briggs; that she was on leave from January, 1943, to May, 1943; that she returned to duty thereafter and worked until she resigned on approximately October 14, 1943.

Mrs. Vaden stated that Mr. Briggs never handled or received any personal mail at his office to her knowledge, and in answer to specific inquiry stated she had never observed him personally writing what would appear to have been personal correspondence. Mrs. Vaden said she did not know C. Nelson Sparks; that to her knowledge he had never visited the office of George Briggs; and that she was particularly certain in this regard inasmuch as she is from Ohio, is very much interested in her home state, and would definitely have taken note of anyone from Ohio. She advised she had never even heard of Mr. Sparks until she read about him in the press.

It will be noted that Mrs. Vaden has not been employed in the office of Mr. Briggs, according to her own statement, since approximately October 14, 1943.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Huntford _____
Starke _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Candy _____

January 18, 1944

12:07PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. TAMM
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS

I called Harry Hopkins to inform him that a subpoena will be issued to bring [redacted] before the Grand Jury. I told Hopkins I had already made arrangements for our laboratory experts to appear before the Jury tomorrow afternoon to report our findings in regard to the handwriting and the typewriters.

For Hopkins information, I advised him I told Secretary Ickes that the two typewriters in Briggs office which have been impounded have proved to be those on which this material was written, that to date, Briggs had denied everything, that we are certain Briggs is a colossal liar, and that Ickes is also convinced of that fact now. Hopkins questioned me as to whether the Secretary will appear before the Jury and I told him I thought he should. I also told Hopkins that Ickes had asked my advice as to whether or not he should see Briggs, and agreed not to, when I advised he should refuse.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. E. H.
John Edgar Hoover
Director

b6
b7c

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
 Coffey
 Glavin
 Ladd
 Nichols
 Rosen
 Tracy
 Acers
 Carson
 Harbo
 Hendon
 Mumford
 Starke
 Quinn Tamm
 Nease
 Gandy

SENT FROM D. C.

DATE 4/10/85
DATE 1/18/44
BY [signature]

RECORDED

INDEXED

17

62-74166-58
JAN 19 1944

46 JAN 19 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JEM:BK

Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Pursuant to your instructions, arrangements were made through the Washington Field Office for two Agents to request Mr. George N. Briggs to come to the Bureau for interview. He complied and was accordingly interviewed by Mr. J. K. Mumford and me between the hours of 4:00 and 8:30 P.M. tonight. Pursuant to your instructions, the interview was maintained on a high plane, and since Mr. Briggs, when specifically questioned about various documents, was evasive at times and at other times indignant over what he claimed was some "amazing goings on" that he did not understand, it was not possible to cross him up on his statements and pin him down as might have been done with a suspect in an ordinary criminal case.

Submitted herewith is the thirty-six page transcript of the questioning. Mr. Briggs read and initialed each page and executed a sworn affidavit that all information therein as furnished by him was entirely true to the best of his knowledge. Miss Mary Frances Turner, Bureau notary, received his oath in that regard. There are also attached with the statement the documents referred to therein.

Since Mr. Briggs was very reluctant to continue the interview as long as would have been satisfactory from our standpoint on the basis that he was due home for dinner and his wife would be crying and upset, it was not possible to review the transcript of the questioning for any corrections. As a consequence, the following comments are made for record purposes:

On page 8 of the transcript, reference is made in Item 6 to [redacted] This was described as [redacted]

[redacted] Mr. Briggs denied writing or having any knowledge of the note.

Again on page 33, immediately after Item 6 which is a comment by Mr. Briggs, Mr. Mumford handed him the two line note bearing the identification "GJ-4" and the text. [redacted]

[redacted] He immediately and emphatically denied any knowledge of such a note or that he had typed it or had it prepared. This exchange between Mr. Briggs and Mr. Mumford was entirely omitted.

STORY
BUY
UNITED
STATES
DEFENSE
BONDS
AND
STAMPS

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44 NOV 9 1964

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INDEXED

162-7446-59
27 JAN 19 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

Memorandum for Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Briggs expressed complete willingness to have his fingerprints taken as is indicated in the transcript, but subsequently declined. He did state, however, that he had had his fingerprints taken for submission to Civil Service a year or two ago when he applied for Civil Service status for his position. He expressed willingness for the Bureau to use those prints for any comparison purposes. The Civil Service prints to which he referred have been located and are presently being held in the office of Mr. Hallett in the Identification Division. Mr. Anderson of that office advises that ordinarily the applicant fills in the personal data on these cards and that in this particular case all personal data, including the name of the applicant, is in handprinting. Over the printed signature is a regular script signature. It is being suggested to the Laboratory that the signature and other material on that card be compared with pertinent questioned documents.

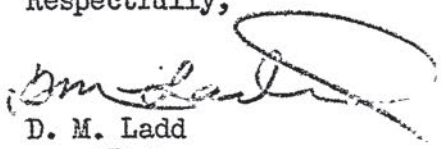
Mr. Briggs wrote a number of names, et cetera, on three sheets of paper for handwriting comparison purposes. He expressed complete willingness to give handwriting specimens, but when it came to doing so was hesitant and almost belligerent about writing more than just a few names and words, and as a consequence only the material described above was secured. These were identified by Mr. Mumford and turned over to H. H. Spieth, night supervisor of the Laboratory.

At the conclusion of the interview, Mr. Briggs was returned to his home by the two Agents of the Washington Field Office with instructions that pursuant to Mr. Briggs' authorization they secure typewriting specimens from the typewriter at his home. This was done and they subsequently returned those specimens to my office and then took them to the Laboratory for the use of Mr. Dingle who is in charge of the examination being done. ✓

Mr. Mumford also gave to Mr. Spieth, the Laboratory night supervisor, various typewriting specimens secured by Mr. G. C. Burton of this Division from the two typewriters at Mr. Briggs' office, one of which is maintained in his own private office and the other in the office of his secretary.

Mr. Mumford subsequently went to the Laboratory and reiterated to Mr. Dingle your desires which had previously been conveyed to Mr. Coffey and Night Supervisor Spieth that the examinations be made continuously so as to expedite the finding of conclusions by early tomorrow if possible. It was explained to Mr. Dingle and Mr. Spieth that each of the questioned documents referred to in the transcript taken of the interview with Mr. Briggs be compared against each other both as to typing and handwriting and that each be compared against the typewriting from Briggs' home and his office and his known handwriting.

Respectfully,


D. M. Ladd


Attachment

JEH:MDH

January 18, 1944

4:40PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. TAMM
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS

Mr. Harry Hopkins called to ask if it was true that Briggs had confessed as the President had just advised Hopkins he heard the flash over the radio. I told Hopkins that he had not confessed to my knowledge; that Ickes has just suspended Briggs pending further investigation, but I did not believe Ickes had talked with Briggs since that was what I advised Ickes not to do this morning. I told Hopkins we had not talked to Briggs today.

Mr. Hopkins mentioned that since Briggs wrote the letters to Sparks on the Department of Interior letterhead, he may have forgotten to put stamps on the envelopes.

I told Hopkins confidentially that the printing on the envelope in which the "Hopkins letter" was transmitted to Sparks had just been identified with the printing that appeared on a Civil Service card filed by Briggs. I told Hopkins further that we are attempting to locate the men who took such card from Briggs who will be able to testify that Briggs printed that card in his presence.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

SENT FROM [redacted]
TIME 6:42 PM
DATE 1-19-44
BY [redacted]

JAN 19 1944

62-74466-60
F B I
18 JAN 19 1944

b6
b7C

9:54AM
Jan:IFB

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
TAMM
LADD
NICHOLS

Secretary Ickes telephoned me, and stated Briggs had requested to see him. Mr. Ickes asked my advice, and I told him I thought he should refuse at the present time.

I advised Mr. Ickes that we had questioned Briggs yesterday; that we had taken a sworn statement from him, in which he denied everything. I also told Mr. Ickes that we had established the Hopkins letter was written on the typewriter in Briggs' outer office, and that an examination of Sparks' letters from Briggs revealed these had been written on the typewriter in Briggs' inner office; that the signatures on these letters to Sparks were identical with Briggs' handwriting. Mr. Ickes was advised that during the interview, Briggs had also denied his signatures on the letters to Sparks.

I suggested to Mr. Ickes that these two typewriters be impounded so Briggs could not alter or destroy them. Mr. Ickes agreed to this, and stated he would have the guards pick up these typewriters; then the necessary legal steps can be taken to impound them.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.
John Edgar Hoover
Director

b6
b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
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2:15 PM
1/18/44
CGL

62-11111-61
JAN 20 1944

JKM:BK
1-18-44

62-74466

JAN 19 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

C. Nelson Sparks

Pursuant to arrangements made with Mr. Henry A. Schweinhart, an interview was conducted with Mr. George N. Briggs the late afternoon of January 17, 1944. He denied the preparation or any knowledge of the communication allegedly addressed by Mr. Hopkins to Dr. Humphrey Lee and twenty of the twenty-two exhibits submitted by Mr. C. Nelson Sparks to substantiate his explanation of the letter addressed to Dr. Lee. He admitted the preparation and transmittal of the letter dated September 10, 1943 to Mr. Sparks which begins, "I have read with great interest your manuscript, "One Man - Wendell Willkie." He also admitted preparation and transmittal of the letter dated October 21, 1943 which begins, "There is nothing new on the letters except that last night I did call Fairmont, Minnesota..."

For your further information, there is transmitted herewith a copy of the thirty-six page transcript of the interview which was read by Mr. Briggs and attested to by the initialing of each page and the execution of an affidavit as to the correctness of its contents. The original is being retained in the files of the FBI.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

Attachment

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 10:30 am
DATE 1-19-44
BY [signature]

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
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Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

20 JAN 19 1944

RECEIVED READING ROOM
JAN 18 1 19 PM '44

RECORDED

RECEIVED READING ROOM

JAN 19 1944

b6
b7C

[Handwritten signature]

JAM

EAT:DS

t. 1-17-44

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 17, 1944

BY SPECIAL
MESSENGER

Honorable Harry L. Hopkins
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY
ON 9-26-85

b6
b7C

Dear Harry:

I thought you would be interested in
the contents of the attached Memorandum Laboratory
Report dated January 15, 1944.

Additional Laboratory examinations and
comparisons are being made at the present time and
a further report will be submitted to you at an
early date.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,
J. Edgar Hoover

Attachment

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-74466-63
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 19 1944
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JAN 17 1944
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Tarke
Winn Tamm
Case
andy

37 JAN 19 1944

JEH:egb

January 18, 1944

9:39AM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. TAMM
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY

b6
b7c

I called Harry Hopkins and told him that it had been determined that the "Hopkins letter" and twelve of the letters given to us by Sparks had been prepared on a typewriter in the outer office of Briggs, room 5138 of the Interior Building, and that the signatures appearing on the twelve letters were proven to be those of Briggs. I also stated that Briggs emphatically denied that he prepared or signed the letters and signed a statement to that effect.

In answer to Hopkins' question as to whether Ickes had as yet suspended Briggs, I replied in the negative and informed him that Ickes did not know the letters had been prepared on typewriters in Briggs' office.

Hopkins desired to know how long it would take to make it public that his letter was a forgery and wanted to know if he or I could make any statements concerning the matter. I told him we could not, but that I would urge Schweinhaut to present our findings before the Grand Jury at the earliest possible moment, and I believed the matter would be made public Thursday or possibly Friday morning.

Hopkins indicated he was worried about not appearing before the Grand Jury because of possible adverse newspaper publicity.

Very truly yours,

J. E. N.
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
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RECEIVED
JAN 19 1944
12:10 pm
1/18/44
Clerk

62-74466-64
F B I
18 JAN 19 1944



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:BK
62-74466

January 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

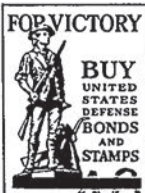
Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

For record purposes in the file, this is to set forth that pursuant to your prior arrangements, Miss Downs, secretary to Mr. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, furnished to you on the night of January 13, 1944 a 12-page transcript she had prepared from recordings of a conversation conducted that day by Secretary Ickes with his assistant, George N. Briggs.

She also furnished to you the four records on which the recording was made. Copies of the transcript are made an enclosure with this serial and the recordings, which I personally listened to for comparison against the transcript and found generally complete and accurate, will be retained by me for a temporary period before being destroyed.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford



JAN 20 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

*Records sent to Mr. Schumacher, Room 2113
Solicitor General, 1/25/44, 4:30 PM personally
Attachment handed them to him
JKM*

*Original transcript rec'd
from Miss Downs also
being attached hereto.
1/26/44 JK*

*Before using
anything from attached
transcript, see corrected & supplemented
copy furnished by Miss Downs on 1/27/44 -
(Serial 176)*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [signature]
#256586
JAN 20 1944
b6
b7C

TRANSCRIPTION OF INTERVIEW OF SECRETARY ICKES
WITH GEORGE N. BRIGGS, ON MORNING OF 1/13/44.

SEC: Good morning.

Mr. Briggs: Good morning .. what happened to you.

SEC: Well, just one of those things.

B: Well, huh, last night about half past nine ... a phone call .!...

SEC: Oh, yes, _____ secretary.

B: He said a lawyer called me and asked me to call you and then to call Sparks at New York.

SEC: For you to call Sparks.

B: Yes. I said all right, that I hadn't planned to be up that late but I would call him so I left a message.

"Now listen", he said, "I can't talk." He said "everybody is lying". I said, "What do you mean?" "Just that", he said. "I can't tell you anything about this session today without it being contempt." He said "you know I was followed in Washington?" I said no I didn't know that. "But", I said, "I wish you would cut out this _____ stuff. I'm getting awfully sick of it."

SEC: You said it?

B: I said it to him. He said, "this isn't _____ stuff, this is serious. I am beginning to believe it. What did you say. What did you tell them. I can't tell you, Mr. . I can't give you any information.

SEC: Why did he ask you to call him?

B: Well, he ... I don't know what it was that he had on his mind, and I became very much disturbed about it and I

SEC: From what you said yesterday I am wondering whether someone isn't trying to frame you.

B. Oh, that's He said this, "They're trying to get your boss." I said, "Who is"? He said, "those two men that I mentioned to you yesterday. I said "I don't think" -- he said, "all right, all right." Here's another thing ..

SEC: Hopkins and Rosenman.

B. Hopkins and Rosenman. That is the day before.

SEC: You told me that?

B: Oh, yes, I told you that yesterday. You said Hopkins and Rosenman. That was the first time that Rosenman's name had ever been mentioned. And that brings another possibility knew that Sparks. So I am told, I did not see it but ...

SEC: I think it was in the paper yesterday.

B. Well, I didn't read it, and if they are ... any such or indicated in any way whatsoever that we knew about this letter.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

6-777-65

SEC: Well, just how much have you seen of Sparks lately?

B: Well I saw him day before yesterday.

SEC: He has been at your house several times hasn't he?

B: Once or twice but that was

SEC: That was before you sold the house? How Long ago?

B:

SEC: Last summer. Well was he ever in your office here?

B: Not recently. Well he would call up. He called up once or twice and I said, "Thy, don't you drop over?" "Ahh, I don't think I had better. He seemed the FBI.

SEC: Well, maybe he is.

B:

SEC: Maybe he is wired himself. I don't know. Maybe he isn't. You haven't heard anything more from Gannett?

B: No, I didn't call him, because it was so late when I talked to.....

SEC: Well, was Sparks true on the stand?

B: The papers said this morning Do you suppose that

SEC: Well, I don't like to ask that sort of thing. The grand jury is confidential and I don't like to ask favors and I don't like to ask any particularly that are likely to be turned down. That isn't comfortable.

B:

SEC: No, but what have you got to show it? Does he still think that the signature is genuine? If I remember, that afternoon that you went over to see him he showed you a photostatic copy.

B:

SEC: Well, you went over to see him one afternoon and

B: Oh, I saw the original.

SEC: The original of the letter?

B: But it made no impression on me because -----

SEC: I never knew that. He didn't tell you then where he got it?

B: I didn't ask him.

SEC: Do you suppose ..

B: But I did ask him after this article

SEC: Yes.

B: I got him on the phone last Sunday and said to him, "you go out and buy the TIMES HERALD and read that story and call me back." He did. He said, "I haven't any idea where that story came from." He said, "unless that damn Langer has been talking." "But," I said, "what would he know? Who has been talking to Langer?" He said, "I don't know anything about it." I said, "will you please tell Cohen (?) or anybody else that neither the Secretary nor I know anything about this letter."

SEC: Well now, of course, someone said that to Cohen (?). And that would be consistent with the suspicion

B:

SEC: I didn't see that.

B:

SEC: That would be consistent with the suspicion that somebody was trying to frame me and that the TRIBUNE gang was in on it. They would pay anything to get me.

B: Yes. It is true they would throw anybody to the wolves if they could get you.

SEC: Or they would fire anyone if they could fire them.

B:

SEC: Would he tell you what the nomination was?

B: No, he didn't.

SEC: What was the sermon on?

B:

SEC: When did he check out there?

B: That morning. That would be Tuesday morning.

SEC: He checked out Tuesday morning.

B: Tuesday morning.

SEC: And what hotel is he at here?

B: Well, he stopped at the Carroll Arms. But he is in New York. He was

SEC: At the Carroll Arms.

B: Yes.

SEC: And that is where he said that a woman reserved a room

B: Paid \$4 down on a room when he got here, Tuesday.

SEC: And then it was Tuesday that he called you up and you and your daughter stopped over to see him?

B: Yes, we stopped over to see him along. We drove up we were going to meet Mrs. Briggs down town anyway. We were going to meet her so we drove up past the Senate Office Building.

SEC: Yes.

B: We made the stop and walked down together. I told Nancy to sit in the car but she didn't want to. She said, "It is cold. I'll wait in the hotel and you" Sparks was waiting inside. He walked up to me he said I said, "I've got to get out of here. I've got to meet my wife at six o'clock. He said I will be right down. I said he said, "I thought it would be better this way"

SEC: "That he was covering your chief?

B: That's right. Well, then and I had been followed when I went to New York, ... how lost one is, rushing through the crowds, bustling through, and how this was power politics, he said, no common politics. My god, he said, the most unscrupulous things happen. We don't know he said that you had stolen it from Ickes. "Ha, ha", I said, "My God"...

SEC: That you had stolen it from me?

B: That I had stolen it from you. I said, "My God, assuming that

SEC: When did you see this letter? You said, some months ago ...

B: Oh, yes ---- sometime ago, sometime around Thanksgiving. But it made no impression on me. It didn't seem important.

SEC: It isn't important except for the implications.

B: Yeah, and I didn't even notice the I looked at it. It was badly mussed, folded and refolded ----. It looked as if it had been handled

SEC: Well, one has to believe this letter must have been

B: It must have been Then after I had talked to him, I said to him, "Will you please tell Cohen or anyone else who is interested that neither the Secretary nor I have had anything to do with this letter." He said, "I certainly will. I am coming to Washington and I'll make them look like nickels. Remember, I told you that?

SEC: When was that?

B: That was three, or maybe four weeks ago.

SEC: Well, he admitted that he knew Cohen?

B: Well, I suppose he does. I don't know that he ever has admitted that to me.

SEC: Well, wouldn't that be pretty much of an admission? You said, "when you see Cohen."

B: I said, "will you tell Cohen or anyone else who is interested".

SEC: It would seem to me that that was an implication by both of you that he knew Cohen.

B: Well, I assumed that of course he could make it his business to see Cohen, as long as Cohen had signed the article.

SEC: Now about this fellow on the TIMES HERALD?

B: Waldrop?

SEC: Does he know Waldrop?

B: I don't know. And then he said, "I'll make them look like nickels!" "Well", I said, "don't make a statement today because the strike is on." He didn't know anything about the strike.

SEC: That was the newspaper strike?

B: That was the newspaper strike. I said, "Wait until that is over." I said "By the way, where did you get that letter?" He said, he laughed, "I got it from a friend of mine in San Antonio." "Well," I said, "now make that pretty clear to those people." And that was all I heard about it. Then he began going off on a tangent.

SEC: Well, his statement to you that he had heard that you had stolen the letter from me. Well, that would mean that I had written or caused the letter to be written and never mailed it, wouldn't it? It is inconsistent with the statement that I had sent you or somebody else to San Antonio to get the letter. Have you ever been in Texas?

B: Never been within gunshot of it. I tell you, Mr. Secretary, I am sorry that this has happened. I think the whole damn thing is some I am very uncomfortable about some kind of a conspiracy of the these hate- who speak for the TRIBUNE, the TIMES HERALD and the NEW YORK NEWS.... last night ... Supposing that I am called down there to Schweinhaut said to me last Friday -- and I didn't want to be in a position not to have to talk to you the grand jury may want me to come down and I was having trouble with my eyes

SEC: Well, you can't tell them that. You would have to

B: No, I would tell them --- but about the, I couldn't tell them anything like that.....

SEC: Schweinhaut.

B: They might want me to come down and say that I didn't know anything about it. But supposing that they called me and I go down there and Sparks and I deny ever having given it to him. I can't deny having seen it. I can't tell them when I saw it. It was sometime -- the latter part of and I would tell them

SEC: Did you tell Schweinhaut that you had seen the letter?

B: Well, I think I did. I can't remember whether he asked about that. I had just seen a NETWORK in which the article I saw that.

SEC: I thought you told me once you never had seen that original.

B: No, oh, no. It was just .. I don't even remember where it was, where we were, whether we were in my office or

SEC: How often has he been in your office?

B: Once or twice. At lunch one day. On the 5th floor last summer.

SEC: Why didn't you tell me Monday that Mr. Schweinhaut had been over to see you on Friday.

B:

SEC: On Monday? You didn't tell me until yesterday when I asked you.

B:

SEC: Well,seem to forget. I don't know what somebody is dunning for whom. But, it doesn't look very good to me.

B: Here's the Supposing that they start after Spraks prosecute Sparksand get in some of the higher-ups

SEC: Has he anything in your handwriting or over your signature that would help him at all in making out a case against you?

B :

SEC: You're sure? No telegrams? No letters? Did you see that manuscript before he published it?

B:

SEC: All of it?

B: No, not all of it. I did not see that part about Hopkins.

SEC: You didn't?

B: No, actually I saw

SEC: Did you make any corrections or changes?

B: Maybe I made a change or two.He wrote it, or Movius wrote it. I don't know who. It was just a rehash of all that stuff that I

SEC: Well, there again I thought you told me that all you had supplied to him was some circular

B: I gave him those bulletins ..

SEC: Bulletins

B:

SEC: But in addition to that he sent his manuscript to you?

B: He brought it over I thought the story was all right.

SEC: Of course that implicates you in a way.

B: Yes.

SEC: Same sort of a thing. You certainly had something to do with it if you read the manuscript and

B: Well, naturally, I have no control over

SEC: No, but you could have refused to make any comment on it. I wish you had told me about it. When was that?

B: That was a long time before he had it printed, whenever that was.

SEC: Well, there is something about this, several things about it that I don't understand. I don't think that you have been entirely frank with me on this.

B: Well, I didn't know.

SEC: Well, I remember your coming in here the day that the thing was published and you told me that it had been published. And if I were under oath I would have to say that my best recollection is that you told me that you did not know anything about it.

B: I did not see it in a book for a long time after it was published, but I did read the manuscript.

SEC: Then I asked you to get me a copy of the book and you did get me a copy. I came in the next day and had you in and told you that I wasn't very much impressed. Commented particularly on the Hopkins part, saying that I was puzzled, that I always have been puzzled

B: Well I didn't see that. That made a difference. All that he showed to me was the story of the "Frank" (?) incident and the story of the suing (?) of the Waldorf Hotel, ah, the ——— mental hotel in Philadelphia. That is all that he showed me. I said those are the things that I had in my bulletins that Hopkins letter, let's see it.

SEC: Well, you remember, I remember that in commenting on the Hopkins letter I said that that was likely to raise quite a controversy and I couldn't see the object

B: I remember that.

SEC: Or the motive in anyone writing it. I still don't, except on the theory that somebody is trying to plant something on me. And that couldn't be done except through you. And even at best I think it puts me in a very embarrassing position because if they should call you over you would have to tell the facts and you would tell them that you had been in communication with him when he was writing the thing and you discussed the Hopkins letter with him and, well,

you know that these damn people would say. "Well, well"

B:

SEO: Sure. It just, it involves me right up to the hilt.

B: I wonder if

SEO: You. Every damn bit. It would be hard to explain that considering our relationships and that we have had so many discussions about Wilkie and about Sparks and about Stassen and so many other people that it would must make, some people would be inclined to disbelieve that you had not said anything

B: I don't

SEO: I don't understand.

B:

SEO: But I didn't know you were seeing Sparks. Sparks was writing the book.

B:I haven't been. I haven't seen him more than 4 or 5 times. Maybe 5 times in a year.

SEO: But I never knew that.

B: He was out to the house for dinner one night last autumn he was there and that was before he even started the book.

SEO: Yes, but you -- in connection with, when you consider that I had gone on to Chicago, at the home of Ed Kelly when I met you for the first time and you told me the story of the convention there. As a matter of fact you had it in a manuscript and in a draft of a speech. You told me all that stuff and you remember that I asked you to call Sparks up

B: You did.

SEO: And you listened in on an extension. Sparks knew and considering all that and the fact that Sparks was up to his, up to some mischief, it just strikes me as being a serious thing that you did not say anything about it. I never heard anything until you came in and told me about the book. Is that right?

B: I wouldn't count on that statement. I don't remember. But at any rate I came inafter the Cohen (?) article.

SEO: Well that was simply

B: three or four days after it appeared. You hadn't said anything so I voluntarily came in after

SEO: Well, I can't see any reason for bringing you into it except, unless it is based on the hope of trying to connect me with it.

B: Well,

SEO:now, it just clicks, the pieces are falling together.

B: Certainlypermission 4 years ago -----to happen every campaign.
.....and at Philadelphia

SEC: Yes, but that doesn't have anything to do with the Hopkins letter.

B: No, of course it doesn't. They smelled me out and put two and two together and well it's done.

SEC: Well, did they smell you out or did Sparks tell you? It is very significant thatlast night that Sparks should have said to you as you told me that he did that these papers were trying to get me. Apparently he repeated that over the telephone last night again, didn't he.

B: That they were trying to get my boss.

SEC: yes.

B:about these two men that were

SEC: Well, I just don't believe that. I think that if there is anybody trying to get me that it is this lousy newspaper triumvirate and that somebody is paying good money. I can't explain it on any other theory.

B: Well, I will have to
I believe that I thought about it afterwards. Then I

SEC: Well, I asked you whether you had taken it to Justice?

B: Yes.

SEC: Do you know Henning? Do you know any of the other men?

B: never have talked to him.

SEC: Sparks told you that he came in here with some Ohio papers on some Public Works projects?

B: I don't remember well. Something like that.

SEC: I don't remember him. But that is the only time he ever saw me.

B: My recollection is that

SEC: Well I don't remember him at all. I rememberwalk in the door. And why in the hell -- you know there are some funny things about this. Who selected the name ~~John~~ ~~Sparks~~? Who picked on him? I did not know there was such a person, did you?

And then there was some cock and bull story about a man by the name of Frank Phillips, a friend of mine, an oil man -- had discovered the letter and had been an intermediary or had brought the letter to me, or something.

B: I don't know.

SEC: Then I think there is another report

B: had the story.

SEC: Yes, I saw that, I remember that. Another rumor to the effect that I sent you down to San Antonio to get the letter

B:said that I went. And here was another thing that Sparks said to me day before yesterday reading the letter, how he had waved it in front of this crowd and said that the grand jury Then he said that an old friend, I think he said "Keeler"

SEC: Heeler?

B: No, Keeler, who, as I recollect it must be in the engraving business or something of the sort ... took this letter, asked permission to take it, and wanted to, by some process of putting powder or whatever they do ... to bring out ----- to bring out that thing that said was up there with a notation on the side that had been erased. He said that he brought it back to the hotel and said, "Well," he said that paper is so hard and the pencil in which writing was was so soft that it was made in

SEC: Was it written in longhand?

B: Oh, no, the letter was typewritten

SEC: The notation?

B: There had been some kind of a notation made in the margin.

SEC: Who is Keeler?

B: Well, he is a friend of Frank's, apparently he is an engraver of some kind.

SEC: You don't know where he lives?

B: No, I don't know anything about him. He said that he could get absolutely nothing. Sparks said, "How much do I owe you?" He said, "50". Sparks said "I paid him \$50. It wasn't worth it.

SEC: No newspapers tied in with it?

B: No, ST. LOUIS STAR DEMOCRAT is the only one and that was right after the book came out.

SEC: Oh, yes. Well, hasn't Movius been doing some talking about you?

B: I rather think he has.

SEC: I rather think so. Have you heard Senator Wheeler's name in connection with this?

B: Why, is he mixed up in this?

SEC: Well, I just heard it, I have forgotten in what connection. Well, the whole thing, it is a very curious thing. As you know, I have never figured out how anyone could have a motive. Well, I think we did discuss that there might be a possible motive in order to get Hopkins. But, hell, that, to get Hopkins Hopkins. A forgery is the easiest thing in the

world to disprove and when you disprove it, why

B: You destroy it. You destroy the document.

SEC: Why, the thing reacts, the other way. So that the only motive now that I can see, and I have thought it over very carefully since I talked to you yesterday, the only motive that I can see is a desire of these people to implicate me in a grossly stupid forgery. And what do they give as my motive for it? They go back to 1935 when I thought that Hopkins got more money for WPA than he was entitled to and that I thought that I should have had more for PFA. Well, that is just damn far-fetched. But it is significant as showing the eagerness on the part of someone to implicate me.

Now, whether I like Hopkins or whether I don't like Hopkins is beside the point. I just don't believe that Hopkins is even remotely interested in this sort of a thing. He wouldn't have to do that to make it tough for me and I just don't believe Sam Rosenman would even think of such a thing. Now the Sparks linking the two together and what would make them really co-conspirators must necessarily be upon the assumption that they both dislike me and both would like to destroy me. Well, waiving the question whether Hopkins likes me or not, I never have had any indication that Rosenman did not have a friendly disposition and certainly Rosenman has had no occasion ..

B: I have never heard of Rosenman being unfriendly ...

SEC: I wonder if Sparks told that to the grand jury yesterday.

B: I haven't any idea. He didn't tell me what he told to the grand jury. I know my wife said this morning that probably Somebody had called and wanted to speak to me. She said that I wasn't there. "Has he gone to work?" "Yes, he's at work. Who is it. Would you like to leave a message." "No," he said, "this is a friend". And that made it an anonymous call, crossed wire, or something of the sort. She called me up to tell me about it.

Well, it is very disagreeable. Now, I am telling you I am just all fed up with it and I will do anything that you say.

SEC: I don't think that we have seen the end of it. I tried to reach you yesterday afternoon. I thought you were coming back.

B: I came back.

SEC: When.

B: For a little while. I was back about half past two.

SEC: I tried to reach you two or three times.

B: I was very difficult.

SEC: Well, all right.

B: He did not go on, you see, until two o'clock and so I had to get the papers yesterday afternoon

SEC: Well, all right.

B: Well I will do anything that you say.

SEC: Well, I don't think anything can be done. I think — the fat's in the fire and what is going to be the outcome I don't know. I don't like the looks of it.

B: If you want me to go over and tell my story to Biddle or anyone like that

SEC: No, you told it to Schweinhaut. I suppose you told him ...

B: No, I answered his questions. He wasn't there over 20 minutes.

SEC: All right.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

Original

sent to Hqs Carusi civil means

10/2/84

JKW



AM 100000

65

Handwritten notes:
 Original transcript
 dated 1/13/44
 Miss Downes
 of Secretary Ickes' office
 to Mr. D. M. Ladd on
 the night of January 13, 1944.
 She stated she had personally
 transcribed it from the four records of the conversation
 which were also turned over to Mr. Ladd and are being held
 with this memorandum.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

The attached is the original transcript handed by Miss Downs of Secretary Ickes' office to Mr. D. M. Ladd on the night of January 13, 1944. She stated she had personally transcribed it from the four records of the conversation which were also turned over to Mr. Ladd and are being held with this memorandum.

*Records sent to Mr. Henry Schwabert
 Rem # 2113 dated 4:10 PM 1/25/44 by
 Miss Pamine Soules, FBI Steno, who has been
 forwarding to Mr. Schwabert.*



CAA:CHM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 14, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ b6
Mr. Acers _____ b7C
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

Re: Unknown Subjects; Harry L. Hopkins,
Victim - Misc. (Possible Violation of
District of Columbia Statutes Prohibiting
Forging and Uttering of Documents to the
Injury of Another)

The questioned letter addressed to Dr. Umphry Lee dated August 17, 1943 signed "Harry L. Hopkins" together with canceled checks bearing signatures of Mr. Hopkins dated February through September 1943 were submitted to the writer with instructions that the letter had been received by the Grand Jury of the District of Columbia which is investigating the possibility that the letter is a forgery for the purpose of injuring Mr. Hopkins. The examination described included the following questions:

1. Is the paper genuine stationery or an imitation thereof?
2. Is the letter written on the typewriter of Mr. Hopkins?
3. Was the letter written by employees of Mr. Hopkins?
4. What alterations, if any, have been made in the document?
5. Is the signature a genuine signature of Mr. Hopkins or a forgery thereof?

Coincident with these questions, instructions were received that no marks should be made on the questioned letter by any means during the course of the examination nor should the condition be altered.

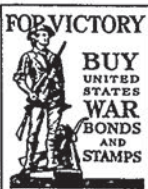
A description of the specimens is given on the attached sheet.

1. Is the Paper Genuine Stationery or An Imitation Thereof?

The paper was compared with such known specimens as are available consisting of letters from Mr. Hopkins in the files of the Bureau. One of these, a letter dated September 23, 1942, is of the same general arrangement including the letterhead. However, neither this specimen nor any of the others exactly match the physical characteristics of the questioned letter. The questioned letter is an unusually thick, good quality bond as are the known specimens but no known sample has been submitted which can be linked to the questioned by the matching of physical characteristics. The watermark also differs from the known indicating that the questioned paper was

COPIES DESTROYED

44 NOV 9 1964



46 JAN 23 1944

MEMO 1/15
EAP

Page Six
Memo Mr. Coffey

List of Specimens

- Q1 Letter dated August 17, 1943 addressed to Dr. Umphrey Lee, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, signed "Harry L. Hopkins".
- K1 Checkbook of Mr. Hopkins for year 1943.
- K2 Specimens of typewriting consisting of note and a page of typewriting.

Respectfully,


C. A. Appel

not manufactured at the same time as any of the known. The watermark in the questioned is the same general design but differs decidedly in particular characteristics and dimensions. This watermark is not that of Government paper in general so far as it has been possible to compare such watermarks. Instead it has four stars above the eagle which may be a particular paper used for such purposes only, such as the White House Offices. If this is true, the differences between the questioned and known could indicate that the questioned is a newer or older paper. This could only be determined by securing complete samples of papers used in August 1943 as well as those used the previous years.

The embossed letterhead in a similar way differs from the genuine with which it was compared (1942) so as to show that the same die or printing plate was not used. There is a very material difference in size although almost the exact arrangement of letters and the same style exists. This letterhead on the questioned letter is embossed in the same way and with the same color ink as the known of the previous years but no letterhead among the known matches in the details listed. As soon as adequate samples of contemporaneous papers are received a positive decision can be reached as to them.

From the above it is clear that the stationery appears genuine having most of the general attributes of genuine paper (constantly in use in varying forms) but does not match any known specimens received up to this time in such a way as to permit a positive decision identifying the paper source. No contemporaneous samples are at hand.

2. Is the Letter Written on the Typewriter of Mr. Hopkins?

By the measurement of the spacing of the letters and lines, the conclusion was reached that the typewriting on the questioned letter was all written on one machine in one operation.

In the center position including the letterhead, the date and that portion of the letter around the obliterated word, erasures have occurred which will be discussed later. The questioned typewriting was written on a black typewriter ribbon considerably worn. All of the genuine 1942 and 1943 letters examined to date were written on a blue ribbon entirely unlike the questioned. One genuine 1941 letter has black ribbon ink. (Different typewriter). Black ribbons were apparently used in 1941 as a normal thing.

While the questioned typewriting has a general appearance of similarity of design, the actual design as determined by critical analysis is entirely different from the typewriters of the known specimens of Mr. Hopkins, used in 1943.

The typewriting was also compared with the typewriting on letters of Mr. Hopkins addressed to the Bureau in 1942. The characteristics of this typewriter, likewise, are entirely different from the questioned.

Similarly, a single letter from Mr. Hopkins to the FBI dated in 1941 was compared and found to be a different make typewriter from the questioned.

From the above, the definite conclusion was reached that the typewriting on the questioned was not written on any of the three typewriters used to write the genuine letters and other known specimens of Mr. Hopkins submitted.

3. Was the Letter Written by Employees of Mr. Hopkins? ✓

In most instances, this question cannot be decided by an examination of the personal typing habits of the writer in questioned typewriting. This is only possible when these habits are so unusual as to furnish strong evidence because of the peculiar significance varying so greatly from the general habits encountered, for instance, in the writing of Touch Systems and other taught methods. The typewritings, nevertheless, were compared for this feature with the known typewriting standards.

The general composition bears a resemblance to the known letters there being a date just to the right of the center of the page, a number of spaces and then the salutation followed by the letter. The complimentary close is in general similar and the writing of the address at the lower left has been used by the known writers of Mr. Hopkins letters. However, the questioned letter differs from the known in habits of the writer in the following ways:

1. The note is not similarly spaced on the page, the margins to the left and right edges being too small and not in conformity with the consistently arranged known letters whereby the letter is artistically spaced on the page.
2. The questioned letter is double spaced whereas the known standards are usually single spaced.
3. The name Harry L. Hopkins is not typed under the signature.
4. The commas are not followed by spaces as in the known.

The indentation at the beginning of the first sentence is approximately the same on the question as on the known.

To summarize, no conclusion can be reached as to this question but there are differences which tend to indicate a different typist who has overlooked important features.

4. What alterations, if any, have been made in the document?

At the upper right of the questioned letter appear pencil lines which slant down and intersect the center portion of the typewritten letter adjacent to the word just before "matter" in the first sentence. This word has been obliterated by drawing heavy lines with the pencil over the typewritten letters of the word. Only one typewritten letter is clearly visible being the last letter which is "O". There is a suggestion of the letter "A" two letters before

this and there is exactly space for the word "Alamo" as claimed by Mr. Sparks. Examination as to the obliterated word has not been completed and will require additional photography and other treatment. In the absence of authorization to stain the document by chemical reagents only physical means is left and this cannot be completed without further opportunity for examination.

The entire area of the paper including the letterhead, the date and the center of the typewriting has been erased. This has resulted in taking off part of the ink of the typewriting, has removed some of the penciling in the upper right hand corner and in all probability erased the visible portion of the first letters in the obliterated word. It may be that some of the invisible ink chemicals exist in the paper and can be developed by chemical means. Authority has not been received for this.

As to reason for erasing the portion around the date and the letterhead, there is no evidence although of course there could have been some handwritten note which was erased. The pencil lines remaining at the upper right bear a resemblance to scribbling or partly illegible notes followed by a question mark. If there was a note at this place, the erasure and the smearing have obliterated the resemblance to words.

If Dr. Lee has a secretary who might have written a note from dictation at this place it would be advantageous to secure specimens in the name "Hopkins", in the words "Mr. Lee", in the word "Russia" for comparison with such portions of the forms as are left. They should also include various samples of question marks and be written in a rapid way as from dictation. Each sample should be removed from the sight of the writer before the next is secured.

5. Is the Signature a Genuine Signature of Mr. Hopkins Or a Forgery Thereof? ✓

The signature was compared with the various signatures on genuine letters in the files of the FBI and the signatures on the checks furnished. These signatures ranging in time from April 1941 through the fall of 1943 are consistent with each other. The questioned signature resembles these known signatures in a general way. An analysis of the handwriting characteristics reveals that they are not only different but the result of contrary motions and other significant personal habits. The genuine signatures are practically illegible so that if they stood alone disconnected from any text it is doubtful whether any stranger would know what words or letters were present. The capital "H's" resemble "N's", the capital "L", is like some forms of capital "T" at times, the "P" is not a "P" and the remainder of the letters are so deformed as to be unrecognizable. The questioned signature on the contrary can readily be defined as "Harry" and the last name is much clearer as to the individual letters than in the genuine signature. This could have been done for the deliberate purpose of making sure that a stranger, unfamiliar with the signature of Mr. Hopkins, would recognize the name.

Persons as prominent as Mr. Hopkins with considerable mail are frequently in the habit of employing secretaries whom they instruct to sign for them a signature resembling their genuine signature enough so that other than close

contacts will not realize the signature is an authorized one instead of a genuine personal signature. Therefore, a conclusion as to whether the questioned signature was written by the writer of the known standards submitted would not decide the question whether the letter is genuine. It might be a genuine signature written by a secretary or similar person and yet not have been prepared by Mr. Hopkins. Also it is sometimes true that persons have two or more ways of writing their name, one being more formal or for another purpose.

For the above reasons before a final conclusion is reached as to the signature on the questioned letter two things are needed. (1) Information concerning the known signatures heretofore submitted as to whether they are the only type of signature habitual to Mr. Hopkins and are truly representative of all types of signatures which he might write and (2) Are there any persons who habitually write Mr. Hopkins name as a signature and if so can specimens be submitted.

At the present stage of the examination on the basis of specimens submitted, in the absence of information of other standards described, the questioned signature resembles the known just enough to have been copied from a genuine signature by someone else.

Some characteristics of the writing of this person may be present in this questioned signature.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD

The best means of identifying the source of this letter appears to be the typewriting. The typewriting was compared with the standards of the different typewriter companies and it was concluded that it most nearly resembles the standards for an Underwood typewriter called Distinctive Elite. This style of type is placed on Standard Master, Standard Portable and Standard Noiseless, all models. This machine was probably in existence in 1939 because of changes which have been made in the type since that date. In this connection it should be remembered that the design was very similar to that of the Noiseless design which may be found on Remington, Underwood or Royal typewriters. The L. C. Smith will equip a machine with type very similar to this. Because of the existence of certain particular designs in particular letters, however, it is probable that the machine will be labeled "Underwood". This is the small or Elite size of type and the most visible characteristic is the small "G" which has the upper circle further to the right with relation to the bottom circle than other makes. The numerals are Gothic shaped with long tails and this particular typewriter has a defect in the small "U" in that the upper left serif appears to be worn off. The upper left serifs on the "M" and "N" also are quite worn. In these three respects the machine used will differ from others even of the same make.

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR,

J OF INVESTIGATION

TO
OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Acers _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. Mumford _____
 Mr. Starke _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Gandy _____

See Me _____
 Note and Return _____
 Remarks: _____

Here it is an "if and but" conclusion. It is a safe one for the Laboratory but a farcical one for the Bureau.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6

b7c

62-7466-66

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

EAT:KLW

Call: 4:30 PM

Washington, D. C.

January 15, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/20/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Henry Schweinhaut advised me of his receipt of a call from a Mr. Clark in the Special Delivery Unit of the City Post Office, who had in his possession a bulky Air Mail, Special Delivery letter, postmarked at Minneapolis Jan. 10th, 7:00 PM from Truman T. Pierson, 5634 Nicolette Avenue, Minneapolis, addressed to C. Nelson Sparks, C/O Foreman of the Grand Jury or Senator La Follette, which was received on Jan. 11th. Both the U. S. Attorney's office and the office of Senator La Follette refused to accept it and Mr. Clark asked Mr. Schweinhaut what to do with it. Mr. Schweinhaut replied by giving him Sparks' Akron address.

Mr. Schweinhaut said he thought it would be well to have our St. Paul Office discreetly check on Pierson and I told him this would be done.

Respectfully,



(Call Clark) [initials]
1-17-44 JKM

46 JAN 20 1944

62-74466-67
F B I
18 JAN 20 1944

Edward A. Tamm

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

EEC:MT

New York, N. Y.
January 15, 1944.

Director, FBI

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Dear Sir:

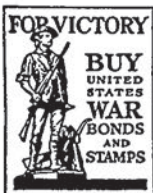
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted] b6 b7c

Reference is made to long distance telephone call received from Mr. Mumford of the Bureau about 4 PM on January 13, 1944, at which time I was instructed to personally interview [redacted] b7D

who was reported to be living at the Ambassador Hotel in New York City temporarily, with reference to the book "One Man - Wendell Willkie", and the allegation about a letter which was supposedly written by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee, President of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

The information given to me by Mr. Mumford was generally discussed with [redacted] in his suite, rooms 827, 828 and 829, Ambassador Hotel, about 6 PM the same day. [redacted] stated that he does not know George Briggs or C. Nelson Sparks, has never met them, and never heard of them until this present situation arose. He states that within his recollection he had never met Dr. Umphrey Lee, and that if he ever had met him, it was most casual because he doesn't remember him at all. He stated further that of course he was acquainted with Mr. Harold Ickes. He further stated that he does not live in Dallas, Texas, but lives in [redacted] He stated that he has never had any letters such as those which had been described to me by Mr. Mumford, and that he had never heard anything about such letters until this matter arose. He stated that as a matter of fact these allegations which had been made about him are entirely untrue. He was very emphatic.

[redacted] further stated that the first time this matter had ever been brought to his attention was two or three weeks ago, when he received a long distance telephone call [redacted] from a newspaperman in New York City, making inquiry similar to the inquiry I had made. b7D



Serial 44 is
memo covering
telephone call on this from NY.
46 JAN 20 1944 579

Op. 22

RECORDED
Very truly yours,
INDEXED
E. E. CONROY
SAC

68	68
F	B
18	JAN 20 1944
5	7579



JKM:BK

Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 17, 1944.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____ b6
Mr. Harbo _____ b7C
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____ b7D
Miss Gandy _____

SA Garfield of the Washington Field Office brought me the following identified photostatic copies of telegrams secured [redacted]

having been sent [redacted] These supplement those which were brought me January 15, 1944:

To:	Date:	Signature:
1. Albert Schneider New York	May 4, 1943 ✓	Geo. N. Briggs
2. P. W. Rahey (insurance) St. Paul	May 11, 1943 ✓	Geo. N. Briggs
3. Same	Same ✓	Same
4. Frank McAllister St. Paul	April 15, 1943 ✓	George
5. O. T. Skellet St. Paul	July 23, 1943 ✓	George Briggs
6. C. Nelson Sparks Akron	September 21, 1943 ✓	George
7. H. S. Briggs Scranton	October 2, 1943 ✓	Nate

Handwritten notes:
- Item 1: *ST Paul office checking records 1/18/44 gmm*
- Item 4: *ST Paul office asked to check identity 1/18/44 gmm*
- Item 6: *H. S. Briggs says he has brother in Scranton who is music teacher 1/17/44 gmm*

INDEXED
97
12-74466-69

It will be noted that Items 1, 2, 3 and 5 do not appear to have any pertinence to the instant case. Item 4 dated April 15, 1943 appears to be too early in date to have pertinence, but its contents are such that it should be kept in mind if the addressee turns out to be the [redacted] who has been mentioned by Briggs according to one of our sources and Sparks denied knowledge of. Item 6 is merely a request from Briggs for Sparks to call him on September 21, 1943. Item 7 is meaningless to the investigation at the present time, but could gain significance if the addressee, H. S. Briggs, comes into this case in any way.



Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

46 JAN 20 1944

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

63
17
1943 MAY 11 PM 06
Straight telegram - send paid and charge to Geo. N. Briggs, 226 West Broad street,
Falls Church, Va.

Telephone Falls Church 1961W
WASHINGTON D.C.
14 5X

P.W.Fahey, General Agent,
Northwestern Mutual Life Ins. Co.,
Guardian Life Bldg.,
St. Paul, Minn.

Remittance in response to your telegram in airmail protect me

P 2
Geo. N. Briggs
5138 Interior Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D. C. MAY 20 1943

BACK DATE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE BY

6/38

SEP 2
OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

PM 3 45 47 NL
Eight letter postpaid charge to

Geo. M. Briggs, Falls Church 1961W,
226 West Broadway Street, Falls Church, Va.

Mr. H.S. Briggs,
Y.M.C.A.,
Scranton, Pa.

Keep a stiff upper lip at least and don't weaken
for it's right behind you As one good infielder
to another there is plenty of baseball left in
us yet as we will prove next week Molly and
Nancy join me in wishing you luck and happiness

Nate

4/0
ALL INFORMATION
HEREIN
DATE 9/26/85

b6
b7C

62-74466-69

REP

51

OFFICE OF

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Room 5138

Might letter paid and charge to

Geo. W. Briggs, Falls Church 1961W,
226 West Broad Street, Falls Church, Va.

Mr. H.S. Briggs,
Y.M.C.A.,
Scranton, Pa.

40 37 B/P

Keep a stiff upper lip at least and don't weaken
for I'm right behind you As one good infielder
to another there is plenty of baseball left in
us yet as we will prove next week Molly and
Nancy join me in wishing you luck and happiness

Nate

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/26/88 BY

b6
b7C

1035W

1943 MAY 11 AM 10 32
1 D WASHINGTON

Straight telegram - send paid and charge to Geo. N. Briggs, 226 West Broad street,
Falls Church, Va.

Telephone Falls Church 1961W

163X

P.W. Fahey, General Agent,
Northwestern Mutual Life Ins. Co.
Guardian Life Bldg.,
St. Paul, Minn.

WASHINGTON, D. C. MAY 20 1943

Please advise by wire today maximum premium required to keep policies in force

BACK DATE

Geo. N. Briggs,
5138 Interior Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.

Inland address

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

5138

3d 62-74466-69

CABLE		TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER	ORDINARY	URGENT
☒	☐	☐	☐
TELEPHONE		CABLE	
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER	ORDINARY	URGENT
☐	☐	☐	☐

WESTERN UNION

N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1207

CHECK	ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED	

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To **ALBERT SCHNEIDER**

Care of or Apt. No. **WA MORRIS AGENCY**

Street and No. **ROCKEFELLER CENTER**

Place **NEW YORK, NY**

WANT A REPLY?
"Answer by WESTERN UNION"
or similar phrases may be
included without charge.

WILL YOU PLEASE CALL ME AT YOUR

CONVENIENCE

GEO. N. BRIGGS

CHG **GEO. N. BRIGGS**
TELEPHONE **FALLS CHURCH 1961 W**

Sender's Name

Address **726 W. BROAD ST FALL CHURCH Td. No.**

VA

J138

35

1943 APR 15 AM 9 57

(56)

65 A H 100

12 58 DL=PHONE FALLSCHURCH 1961W=ID 15 952A

FRANK MCALLISTER=

1100 MINNESOTA BLDG ST PAUL MINN=

YOU WILL GET A TELEGRAM JACKING YOU UP CONCERNING
TRANSACTION ABOUT WHICH I WROTE YOU STOP MATTER IS STILL
PENDING AND PROGRESSING FAVORABLY SO BE GUARDED IN YOUR
REPLY BUT INFORM HIM THAT EVERYTHING IS MOVING TO A
SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION WITHOUT GIVING HIM ANY DATES
STOP YOU MIGHT EVEN SLAP HIS EARS BACK A BIT FOR CROWDING
WRITING=

GEORGE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/88 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

744-01

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELETYPE	ORDINARY
LETTER	URGENT
SEMI	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

WESTERN UNION

1207

CHECK
ROUTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

A. N. WILLE
PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms

To _____

Care of or Apt. No. _____

Street and No. _____

Place _____

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Straight Telegram paid

Charge to Geo. N. Briggs,
226 West Broad street,
Falls Church, Va.

Telephone Falls Church
1961W

C. Nelson Sparks,
584 Crestview avenue,
Akron, Ohio

Telephone University 7137

Please call me at 1:00 o'clock

George

Sender's Name _____

Address _____

SOUTH INTERIOR
SEP 21 1943
WASHINGTON

62-74466-69

5138

Straight telegram - paid

O.T. Skellet,
Ballard Storage & Transfer Co.,
St. Paul, Minn.

Hold everything please am writing

George Briggs

Charge Geo. N. Briggs,
226 West Broad street,
Falls Church, Va.

Telephone Falls Church 1961W

W. B. Johnston
Ran 5138

100
27
JUL 23 PM 2 57
WAS DC D.C.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

404 New York Building
St. Paul, Minnesota
January 17, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; C. NELSON
SPARKS; UMPHREY LEE
IMPERSONATION OF HARRY HOPKINS

Dear Sir:

In accordance with telephonic instructions from Mr. J. K. MUMFORD of the Bureau, I am transmitting herewith a memorandum prepared by Special Agent EDWARD N. NOTESTEEN dealing with a discreet inquiry concerning TRUMAN PIERSON.

Nothing was developed as a result of this inquiry indicating the contents of a package which he had sent to the foreman of the Grand Jury conducting an inquiry in this matter.

Very truly yours,

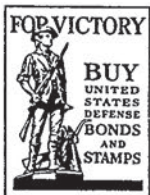
M. B. Rhodes
M. B. RHODES
SAC

DLT:LM
Enc. (1)

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c



Blind memo to Dept - Clark 1/19/44
46 JAN 20 1944

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&
INDEXED
7

12-7766-70		
F	B	I
13 JAN 20 1944		

St. Paul, Minnesota
January 17, 1944

MEMO

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/26/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

Re: TRUMAN PIERSON
5634 Nicollet Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Age 60, born Minneapolis. Never regularly employed and is considered promoter and political opportunist.

1942 Minneapolis City Director lists him as President of the Allied Cat Lovers International, Inc.

On November 10, 1943 filed trade name Hennepin County District Court for publication "Grand Juror", a pamphlet edited and published entirely by him and dealing with civic affairs.

Was employed for a short period in 1937 by Minnesota State Humane Society. No visible means of support.

Is continually involved in law suits and in January 1939 a warrant was issued for his arrest for leaving a rented premises without notifying the landlord. Disposition - fined \$15.00.

In July 1939 he endeavored to file as a candidate for Mayor and spoke on his own behalf wherever possible, his slogan, "Run the devil out of the City Hall".

In 1942 he sued the Minneapolis Aquatennial for injuries alleged to have been sustained while attending an Aquatennial exhibition. Judgment for the defendant.

In 1942 he sued the City of Minneapolis for \$6,000 alleging misplacement of his garbage cans and injury sustained in locating them. Never came to trial.

Recently presented Minneapolis Internal Security Division of the police department with a plaque commending them for their services.

Has published numerous articles in local papers criticising various city departments and is considered as a "nut".

In the spring of 1943 he appeared before the County Commissioners for Hennepin County and insisted that he be appointed as a special

ENCLOSURE

62-77-11-70

agent for the county to streamline county affairs and act as investigator for the County Attorney's Office. Requested a salary of \$3,000. Was not appointed.

Shortly thereafter he appeared at the Minneapolis Retail Credit Exchange, 600 Palace Building, presented a badge presumably that of a Deputy Sheriff and demanded all of the credit information in the files on IRVING PIERSON. Claimed his name was SWANSON and that he was an investigator for the County Attorney's Office. He was recognized, the information not given and the County Attorney's Office advises that he has never been so employed.

Secured a position during the rush season with the Hennepin County Automobile Registration Bureau for the Secretary of State and was discharged and some newspaper publicity incident thereto suggested that he had been accused of stealing a master key to the press room in the State Capitol.

Is a well-known figure in Minneapolis, is intelligent, of the bombastic promotional type, claims connections in high places but has long ago been thoroughly discredited and is considered unreliable and untrustworthy. His credit rating is bad.

It is noted that under date of June 18, 1943 he wrote a letter to the Bureau complaining about the Minneapolis City Water Works Department and that on June 25, 1943 the Bureau acknowledged his letter suggesting that he communicate directly with the St. Paul Office.

On August 30, 1943 he came to the St. Paul Office to solicit help of the Bureau in securing his reinstatement in the St. Paul Propeller Products Company where he had been discharged. He insisted that the Bureau help him to be reinstated.

On September 21, 1943 he called the office by telephone and requested help in securing employment.

EDWARD N. NOTESTEEN
Special Agent

ENN:LL

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:BK
2:45 P.M.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

In compliance with the Bureau's request for information regarding Truman T. Pierson, ASAC Traynor of the St. Paul Office telephonically furnished the following data:

Pierson's address is shown as 5634 Nicolad (phonetic) Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota; age, 60; born in Minneapolis; never regularly employed, and is considered a promoter and a political opportunist. The 1942 Minneapolis City Directory lists him as president of the Allied ~~Cap~~ Cat Lovers International, Incorporated.

On November 10, 1943 he filed a trade name in Hennepin County District Court for publication of "Grand Juror," a pamphlet edited and published entirely by himself and dealing with civic affairs. He was employed for a short period in 1937 by the Minnesota State Humane Society. He has no visible means of support, is continuously involved in law suits, and in January, 1939 a warrant was issued for his arrest for leaving rented premises without notifying the landlord; disposition, fined \$15.

In July, 1939 he endeavored to file as a candidate for Mayor and spoke on his own behalf whenever possible. His slogan was "Run the devil out of the City Hall." In 1942 he sued the Minneapolis Aquatennial for injuries alleged to have been sustained while attending an aquatennial exhibition; result, judgment for the defendant. In 1942 he sued the City of Minneapolis for \$6,000, alleging misplacement of his garbage can and injuries sustained in locating it; this never came to trial.

Pierson recently presented the Minneapolis Internal Security Division of the Police Department with a plaque commending them for their services. He has published numerous articles in local papers criticizing various city departments and is considered as a "nut." In the spring of 1943 he appeared before the County Commissioners for Hennepin County and insisted that he be appointed as a special agent for the county attorney's office. He requested a salary of \$3,000; he was not appointed. Shortly thereafter he appeared in the Minneapolis Retail Credit Exchange, 600 Alice Building, and presented a badge, presumably that of a deputy sheriff, and demanded all of the credit information in the files on "Truman Pierson." He claimed his name was Swanson and that he was an investigator for the county attorney's office. He was recognized, the information was



*See letter from
SAC Paul 1/17/44
File to R. H. C. 1/20/44 154579*

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&
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17

62-74466-71	
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18	JAN 20 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

not furnished him, and the county attorney's office advised that he had never been so employed.

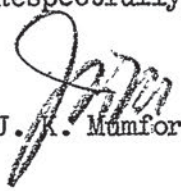
He secured a position during the rush season with the Hennepin County Automobile Registration Bureau for the Secretary of State and was discharged; some newspaper publicity incident thereto suggested that he had been accused of stealing the master key to the press room in the State Capitol.

Pierson is a well known figure in Minneapolis, is intelligent, and is of the bombastic, promotional type. He claims connections in high places, but has long ago been thoroughly discredited and is considered unreliable and untrustworthy. His credit rating is bad.

Mr. Traynor said it was noted that under date of June 18, 1943 he wrote a letter to the Bureau complaining about the Minneapolis City Waterworks Department, and that on June 25, 1943 the Bureau acknowledged his letter suggesting that he communicate directly with the St. Paul Office. On August 30, 1943 he came to the St. Paul Office to solicit the help of the Bureau in securing his reinstatement in the St. Paul Propeller Products Company where he had been discharged. He insisted that the Bureau help him to be reinstated. On September 21, 1943 he called the office by telephone and requested help in securing employment.

Mr. Traynor advised that his office has developed nothing with respect to the letter Pierson mailed to Sparks. I requested that the foregoing information be submitted by Personal and Confidential letter, and Mr. Traynor said this would be done. *Today.*

Respectfully,


J. K. Mumford



Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:PES
 Call: 11:40 a.m.
 Transcribed: 12:15 p.m.

January 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. McGuire _____
 Mr. Mumford _____
 Mr. Piper _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Beahm _____
 Miss Gandy _____

I telephonically contacted the St. Paul Office and talked with ASAC D. L. Traynor, asking if he knew anything concerning the above individual. He said he knew little of the case except what he had seen in the papers and he had been asked at a meeting of the Rotary Club what authority we had to investigate this matter. He asked for advice on what answer he should give in such instances. I advised him he should point out that the Bureau conducts investigations pursuant to the instructions of the Attorney General, and in this instance such inquiries as we have made have been at his specific instructions on the basis of possible violation of the Federal Statutes; that, however, he should point out that he has no knowledge whatever of the matter.

I briefly furnished Mr. Traynor with the facts as were pertinent to the inquiry he was to make and told him we had been instructed by the Department to discreetly make an inquiry concerning Truman T. Pierson, 5634 Nicolette Avenue, Minneapolis, from whom an air mail special delivery letter was addressed to C. Nelson Sparks, c/o Foreman of the Grand Jury or Senator La Follette. I told him it was a bulky letter and the U. S. Attorney's office and the office of Senator La Follette refused to accept it.

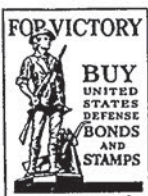
I instructed Mr. Traynor to determine with absolute discretion the identity of Truman T. Pierson and obtain any data possible as to why he would be sending something to Nelson Sparks. I told him to furnish the results of this check by telephone as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

JKM
 J. K. Mumford

b6
 b7c

256586
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 9/26/85 BY [redacted]



579
 20 JAN 20 1944

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18 JAN 20 1944	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1662132-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 146

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Page 275 ~ b7D;

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 17, 1944

GCB'DM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ b6
Mr. Acers _____ b7C
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/29/85 BY [redacted]
256586

According to your instructions, I called at the office of Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes and together with Miss Ellen Downes proceeded to the office of George N. Briggs, for the purpose of securing specimens from the typewriters in his office. Upon arrival there I found that he occupied a suite comprising Rooms 5138 and 5140 of the new Interior Building and that there were two typewriters in these rooms. One typewriter, an Underwood Standard, Serial No. 4282905-11, was in Briggs' own office on a typewriter stand next to his chair, which would indicate that he used this typewriter himself. There are attached three pages of specimens from that typewriter.

9/30/41 - Burton states both Mr. & Miss Downes initialed the specimens for ident. purposes. K.C.H.

In his reception office, which is Room 5138, there is a new-appearing Underwood, Serial No. M-5229119-11. Two pages of specimens were secured from this machine. All of the pages of specimens have been initialed by both the writer and Miss Downes.

In accordance with your further instructions, I ascertained that there was no record in the Interior Department of any official travel performed by Briggs and the only leave record was for six days' annual leave from June 15 through June 21, 1943. No forwarding address was given on this leave record.

Miss Downes is checking through the Department of Interior records to ascertain the history of both of the machines listed above and promised to call the writer when this was done. She also ascertained that Briggs had no ready access to any other machines in the Department.

While these specimens were being taken, Secretary Ickes came in and indicated that he thinks that Briggs has a typewriter at home, but made no request in connection with the furnishing of this information.

ACTION: Upon hearing further from Miss Downes I will advise you of the information received.

Respectfully,

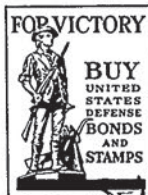
G. C. Burton

RECORDED

INDEXED

62-74466-73

F B I
18 JAN 20 1944



Attachment

Specimens attached & returned in file 1/18/44
Burton personally took serial number of typewriter & specimens 1/18/44
and waited Miss Downes
9 JAN 20 1944

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

CEH:VIM
62-4792

Washington, D. C.
January 17, 1944

Director, FBI

b6
b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/27/85 BY [redacted]

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

Confirming information furnished telephonically to Mr. J. K. MUMFORD, of the Bureau, on January 13, 1944, you are advised that in accordance with the request of Mr. MUMFORD, the following background information regarding GEORGE N. BRIGGS was developed through a check of the Credit Bureau and Stone's Mercantile Agency by Special Agent ROBERT H. KURTZMAN.

Mr. GEORGE N. BRIGGS, whose wife is MOLLY, is married and has one child, presently resides at 3034 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia, and has resided there since November 5, 1943. He rents from Fairlington, Incorporated, and is employed in the Oil Division of the Interior Department, in Secretary ICKES' office. His salary is variously listed as \$7,500 per year and \$5,100 per year. There is an indication that he was formerly in the publishing business in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The records reflect that he was sued on January 18, 1943, by the MIDLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB for \$119.40, the attorney filing the suit being W. E. MILLER. He was sued recently in Washington, D. C., by TIME LOAN COMPANY, showing his address as Room 5138 Interior Building, on a note in the amount of \$230.53. The attorney filing this suit was H. DUNN.

There is a record in the credit files that on December 12, 1941, a St. Paul, Minnesota, credit firm had indicated that some of the accounts of BRIGGS had to be collected by attorneys and others were very slow, that he had a women's wear account in Minneapolis, opened in April, 1941, in the amount of \$115 on which there had been no payments, that he had a dealer account in the amount of \$134 in 1935, which had to be collected by an attorney. This report also reveals that a St. Paul financial institution reports that during the calendar year 1941, BRIGGS had 52 non-sufficient fund checks pass through that institution. A report dated November 26, 1943, reflected that 7 accounts have been sent to the Arlington, Virginia, credit bureau by a St. Paul, Minnesota, credit bureau for collection. These accounts are as follows:

ALBRECHT'S FURNITURE
TYRE SHOP
ST. PAUL SHOPPER
SHUEMANS, INCORPORATED

RECORDED
& \$21.90
INDEXED 23.60
77 95.25
244.76

62-4792-74
Paid 8/21/43
Paid 11/7/42
Still owes \$197.63

COPIES DESTROYED

44 NOV 9 1964

Director
C. NELSON SPARKS
January 17, 1944
62-4792

HOHN and OLSEN	\$65.10	Owes \$53.10
TRI STATE TEL. and TEL.	28.12	Owes 10.00
STREM FASHION SHOP, Minneapolis	121.90	Owes \$100.00

A perusal of the records also indicates there is probably a credit report on BRIGGS at the Mutual Credit Rating Exchange, 610 Hamm Building, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The credit files reflect that a bank loan in the amount of \$460 has been made since BRIGGS has been in Washington and that payment was fairly slow. The files also indicate that he has previously resided in this area at the following addresses:

223 Van Buren Street, Hyattsville, Maryland
4612 Howard Road, College Park, Maryland
226 Broad Street, Falls Church, Virginia
223 Shepherd Road, University Place (University Park?), Maryland

The records reflect that the telephone number of BRIGGS while in Falls Church was Falls Church 1961-W. Since November 5, 1943, when he moved to Fairlington, his telephone number has been Temple 8038. This office has been informed that [redacted] have not been gotten together yet and are voluminous. They are being consolidated at the present time and will be reviewed by this office in the immediate future. However, it has been determined that [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] as follows:

[redacted]

Photostatic copies of [redacted] have been obtained and have been delivered direct to Mr. MUMFORD, of the Bureau. [redacted] will be obtained, if any are located, and forwarded immediately to the Bureau.

We have obtained the photostats of [redacted] for [redacted] received for transmission

~~COPIES DESTROYED~~
~~44 NOV 9 1964~~

Very truly yours,

Guy Hottel
GUY HOTTEL
-2- SAC

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

CEH:VIM
62-4792

Washington, D. C.
January 17, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/27/55 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

Director, FBI

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

In accordance with instructions received from Mr. J. K. MUMFORD, of the Bureau, Mrs. IRIS VADEN, former secretary to GEORGE N. BRIGGS, was interviewed by Special Agents JAMES E. NUGENT and ROBERT H. KURTZMAN, of this office, on January 14, 1944, at 4:30 P.M.

Mrs. VADEN informed that she had been employed in the Department of Interior for several years; that she had been secretary to GEORGE N. BRIGGS, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, during the entire time Mr. BRIGGS occupied that position, which was from approximately January 1, 1942. She said she has never handled any of Mr. BRIGGS' personal correspondence, claiming that very little such correspondence ever came to the office. She further indicated that she has never observed Mr. BRIGGS writing any personal letters at the office, and feels certain any such correspondence was handled by Mr. BRIGGS at his home. She feels sure that no other stenographer at the Interior Department handled any such work for Mr. BRIGGS.

Mrs. VADEN was asked whether NELSON SPARKS ever visited Mr. BRIGGS at the office, and stated she was certain he had not. She said that, inasmuch as Mr. SPARKS is from Ohio and that her own home town is Athens, Ohio, she is sure she would remember him had he done so. She indicated BRIGGS has very few visitors, and that most of his time is occupied handling matters of a semi-personal nature for the secretary. She claimed she can recall no occasion on which Mr. BRIGGS took any trip out of town, and feels sure he never went to Ohio or to Dallas, Texas, during the time she was employed as his secretary.

She was asked if she knew whether BRIGGS had ever collaborated with anyone in the writing of a book, or had ever proofread the manuscript of any book, which had come under her observation. She stated that the only work she had ever observed Mr. BRIGGS doing in the office was of an official nature, connected with his regular duties, and that she had never observed him in any outside work. She was also questioned as to whether he had ever entered into any commentary on political situations or movements, or any particular discussion as to current events. Her answer was that he had never entered into any regular discussions, but might on occasion have commented briefly on news concerning the battlefronts as might be stressed in the newspapers.

COPIES DESTROYED
44 NOV 9 1964

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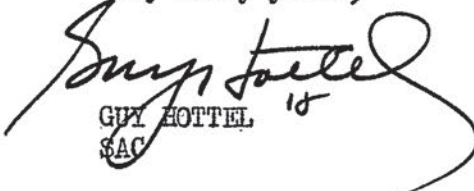
Director
C. NELSON SPARKS
January 17, 1944
62-4792

Mrs. VADEN informed that she had been absent from her duties as Mr. BRIGGS' secretary from about January 1 through May, 1943, and that she again left her position on approximately October 13, 1943, and has not been back since that time, being on leave at the present time. She is uncertain as to whether she will return to the Interior Department. She stated she believes Mrs. WANDA SMITH has taken over her duties as secretary to BRIGGS. She is not certain of this, but feels it is true inasmuch as she knows Mrs. SMITH was interested in having the position and that Mrs. SMITH has been answering the telephone on any occasions that she may call the office.

Prior to conducting the above interview, a check was made with the Credit Bureau and Stone's Mercantile Agency. It was ascertained that, according to a report in the Credit Bureau files, dated September 30, 1943, Mrs. VADEN was born in 1910. Prior to coming to Washington, D. C., she lived in Athens, Ohio. She has been employed in the Interior Department since November 27, 1939, and, as of the date of the report, was rated a Senior Clerk, at a salary of \$2,000 per annum. The report indicated that IRIS YOUNG was married in 1938 to JAMES M. VADEN, who was employed at the date of the report, as a Senior Auditor in the General Accounting Office, at a salary of \$2,300 per annum. The VADENS have two children and have lived at their present home since July 1, 1939.

Mr. MUMFORD was informed of the results of this interview on January 14, 1944.

Very truly yours,


GUY HOTTEL
SAC

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
January 17, 1944

CEH:VIM
62-4792

Director, FBI

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

Confirming information which has daily been furnished telephonically to Mr. J. K. MUMFORD, in accordance with his request, a physical surveillance has been maintained on Mr. ~~GEORGE N. BRIGGS~~, employed in the office of the Secretary of Interior, 3034 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia, since 6 P.M., January 13, 1944.

At that time, it was determined that BRIGGS was at his residence at 3034 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia, where he remained throughout the evening of January 13, 1944. On January 14, 1944, BRIGGS left his home accompanied by a young girl, apparently about 13 years of age, proceeded to Friends' School, on Wisconsin Avenue, and then proceeded to the Department of Interior where he went to Room 5140, arriving there at 8:40 A.M. At 9:25 A.M., BRIGGS left the Department of Interior Building and went to 729 15th Street, N. W., where he proceeded to the Seventh Floor which is occupied by many attorneys and several firms, all of whom use a common receptionist. It was not possible to determine the person on whom he called, although it was determined that the following persons and firms occupy space on this floor:

WARREN ATHERTON
T. J. McGRATH
JUSTUS S. WARDELL
JOHN LEWIS SMITH
JOHN LEWIS SMITH, JR.
THEODORE T. GOLDEN
G. E. ROSDON
MANUEL J. DAVIS
HARRY MOORE
H. O. McBRIDE
THOMAS W. McMANUS
ERNEST SCHEIN
JOHNSON METAL PRODUCTS COMPANY
THE NATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE PROJECT CONFERENCE

COPIES DESTROYED
44 NOV 9 1964

BRIGGS remained at the above address for approximately one-half hour and then proceeded to the Bowen Building, 815 15th Street, N. W., where he entered Suite 324-S. This suite has a common receptionist and is occupied by the following individuals:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/27/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

RECORDED

INDEXED

65 JAN 20 1944

Director
C. NELSON SPARKS
January 17, 1944
62-4792

DOBBINS MANUFACTURING COMPANY
ANSUL CHEMICAL COMPANY
R. G. CLARK
G. LINDQUIST
ROY LINDQUIST
GLENS STRATTON
THE SWAN RUBBER COMPANY

BRIGGS remained here for approximately 45 minutes and returned to his office at 11:30 A.M. At approximately 12 o'clock, he left his office, and proceeded to the Roger Smith Hotel where he met a woman who, from later developments, is believed to be his wife. They attempted to secure lunch at the Roger Smith Hotel but were unsuccessful. They then proceeded to O'DONNELLE'S, which was crowded, and then went to the Occidental Hotel where they had lunch. Afterwards, they proceeded to Friends' School, picked up the girl who had been left there in the morning and spent the afternoon at Falls Church and Clarendon, Virginia, apparently shopping. They returned to their home and at approximately 6:30 P.M., left there and went to KEITH'S Theater, Washington, D. C., attended a show, thereafter returning home where they remained for the balance of the evening.

On the morning of January 15, 1944, BRIGGS left home, drove the girl to 23rd and Bancroft Streets, N. W., apparently to a music teacher, and then proceeded to his office, arriving at 9:05 A.M. He left the office at 10:15 A.M. in his car, drove to CALL CARL'S for repairs, left at 11:05 A.M., and picked up the girl at 23rd and Bancroft Streets, N. W., and drove directly home. Contact with him was lost from approximately 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. No additional activity was noted during the afternoon and evening, although he was observed to be at home during the entire evening.

On January 16, 1944, BRIGGS remained at home or in the immediate vicinity of his home throughout the day. On the morning of January 17, 1944, BRIGGS proceeded to his office in the Interior Building and at approximately 9:55 A.M., left his office and proceeded to Room 213, Standard Oil Building, Third and Constitution Avenue, which is the law office of HENRY J. FOX and STANLEY I. POSNER. As of the time of dictation of this letter, BRIGGS was at that point.

It is noted that BRIGGS drives a 1938 DeSoto coupe, which is

Director
C. NELSON SPARKS
January 17, 1944
62-4792

registered in his name and bears Virginia license plates No. 459-412.

The surveillance is being loosely conducted, very discreetly with the object of determining contacts which he makes which can be determined from physical surveillance. In accordance with your instructions, this surveillance is being maintained at the present time.

Very truly yours,


GUY HOTTEL
SAC

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM: BK

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____ b3
Miss Beahm _____

Pursuant to my request earlier in the day of ASAC Hennrich for a continued search of [redacted] Agent Garfield brought to me a photostatic copy of [redacted]

The Agent also brought a photostatic copy of [redacted]

You will recall that this is similar to

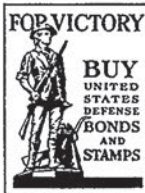
Copies of these were delivered by the WFO Agent to the Laboratory.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/20/85 BY [redacted]

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b7C



52 JAN 20 1944

RECORDED

62-74466-77
F B I
18 JAN 20 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/27/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C



ENCLOSURE

62-74466-77

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Cleveland, Ohio

LVB:MC

January 18, 1944

b6
b7C

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY
9-27-85

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS
Inquiry Concerning

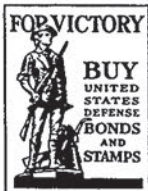
Dear Sir:

Confirming my telephone conversation with Mr. JACK MUMFORD at
the Bureau on this date. I wish to advise that [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]
information is set forth exactly as received from the aforementioned
source:

b7D



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44 NOV 9 1964

RECORDED
& 1
INDEXED
34

62-74466-78
F B I
18 JAN 20 1944

52 JAN 20 1944

Director, FBI

- 2 -

b7D

I was requested to refrain from divulging the source of the information and promised that this information would not be used without the issuance of an appropriate subpoena. In the event any of this information is needed as evidence, I would appreciate notification by the Bureau in order that observations may be made by my contact concerning the issuance of the subpoena.

Mr. MUMFORD suggested that if possible the [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]
[redacted] Inasmuch as the regularly established contact of this office

Director, FBI

- 3 -

[redacted] and the new contact
has not been properly developed thus far, I hesitate at this time to
request [redacted] to furnish such information on the above matter
and shall not do so unless contrarily advised by the Bureau.

b7D

Very truly yours,

L. V. Boardman

Leland V. Boardman
Special Agent in Charge

Air Mail
Special Delivery

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

EFE:AS

January 18, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/27/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

Director, FBI

ATTENTION: Mr. J. K. MUMFORD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your telephonic request I am transmitting herewith an original and one copy of the memorandum prepared by Special Agent E. F. Coyle, setting forth [redacted]

b7D

As you were advised by Assistant Special Agent in Charge T. J. Donegan of this office, there is no indication that [redacted]

In the absence of a request from the Bureau, no check is being made by this office to determine the [redacted]

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY.
SAC
RECORDED

62-74466-79		
F	B	I
18 JAN 20 1944		



Enc.

AIRMAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERY

JAN 20 1944

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

EFC:AS

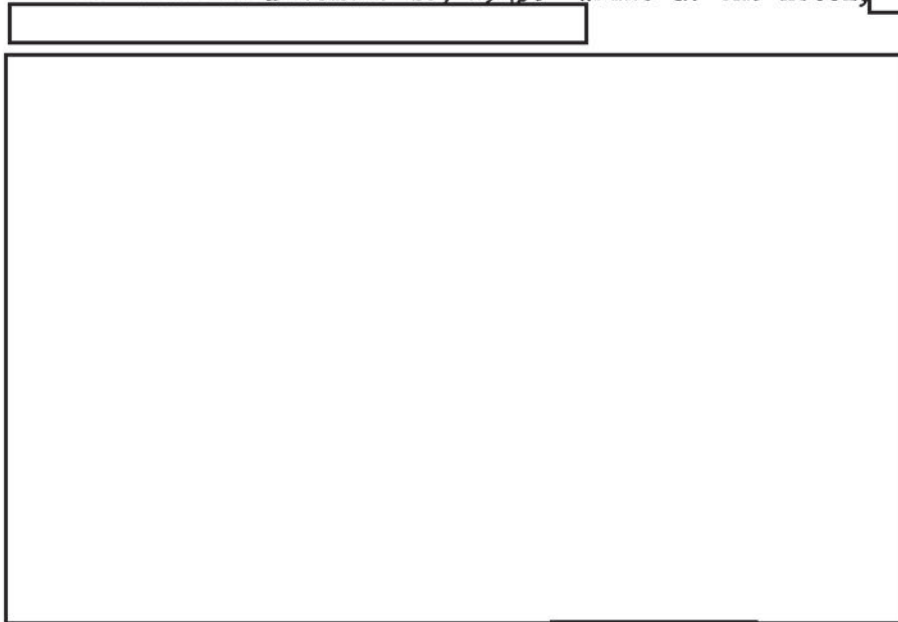
January 18, 1944

MEMO FOR SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE E. E. CONROY

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

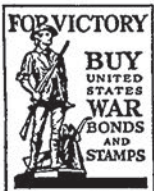
Reference is made to your memorandum of January 18, 1944.
Mr. C. NELSON SPARKS, 524 Crestview Avenue, Akron, Ohio, registered
at the Tudor Hotel, New York City, on December 2, 1943, and left
this hotel on December 20, 1943. While at the hotel, [REDACTED]

b7D



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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/27/85 BY [REDACTED]



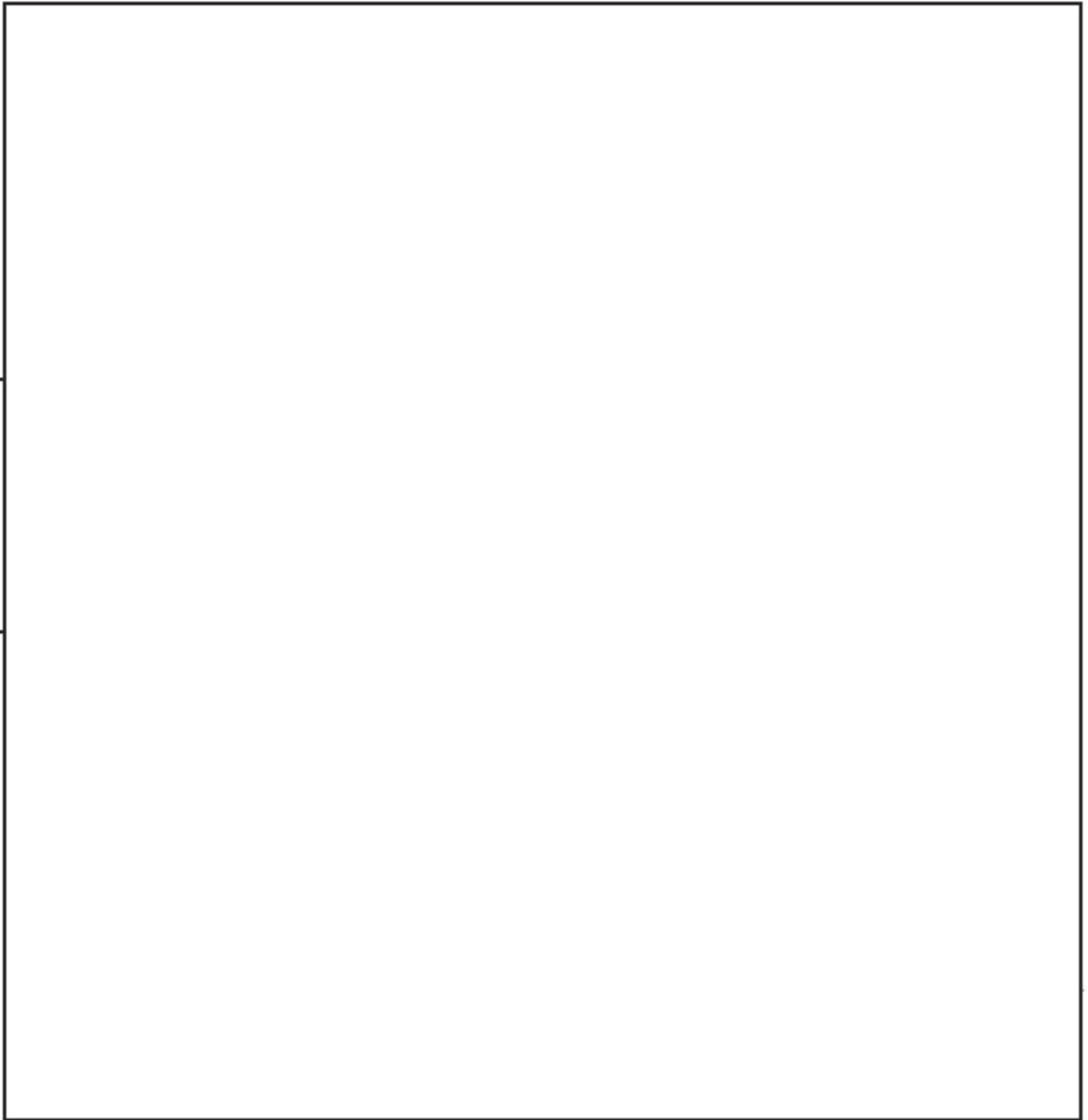
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44 NOV 9 1964

ENCLOSURE

62-74465-79

January 18, 1944

b7D



The above information was secured from

[redacted]
[redacted] New York City.

E. F. Coyle
Special Agent

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44 NOV 9 1964

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:BK
4:55 P.M.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy b7D

I telephonically contacted ASAC Traynor, St. Paul, and advised him there are allegations in this case that a couple of Briggs' insurance checks bounced. I told him [redacted]

[redacted] I told him that November is the month most pertinent in our inquiries, that November is just six months after the May premiums were involved, and that this may have some significance. I also advised him that in a letter dated November 13 Briggs mentioned some monies he had paid out, including his insurance of \$219, and that from another source it was learned there was a similar withdrawal from his bank.

I told Mr. Traynor we would like to verify what the premium was, whether the check bounced, if so when, et cetera. I also told him most insurance records indicate when there is any insurance carried with other companies so I told him to be alert for any such information. I told him no publicity should result from the contact with the insurance company.

I also furnished Mr. Traynor the name of Frank McAllister, 1100 Minnesota Building, St. Paul, and told him Briggs had sent McAllister a wire on April 15, 1943. I requested Traynor to furnish any information available regarding this person.

He said the desired inquiries would be made and that the Bureau would be advised of the results as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/27/85 BY [redacted]



9 JAN 20 1944

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
34

62-74466-80
F B I
18 JAN 20 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:BK
4:45 P.M.

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ASAC Hennrich, Washington Field Office, called with reference to [redacted] and advised that Western Union maintains an office in the Interior Building, that they have a group of boys there who go to the various offices in answer to buzzers to pick up messages, and that they are supposed to put their initials on the back of the messages but they rarely do and they probably wouldn't be able to remember any specific wires.

With reference to further information from [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] Mr. Hennrich pointed out that this is an unusual procedure but it is interesting and occurred right at the pertinent time.

He stated with reference to [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] et cetera.

In an effort to determine Briggs' salary, [redacted]

[redacted] Mr. Hennrich said he didn't know whether this item was of any significance at present, but thought it should be mentioned.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/27/85 BY [redacted]

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford



62-74466-81		
F	B	I
18 JAN 20 1944		

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b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287



JKM:BK
3:40 P.M.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Pursuant to instructions issued this morning, ASAC Donegan, New York, telephonically advised that the desired check at the Tudor Hotel was made. He stated there was no indication Sparks called the Ambassador Hotel where Frank Phillips was staying.

He further advised they secured [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]
[redacted] Mr. Donegan said there were [redacted] I told him to send this listing to the Bureau AMSD marked to my attention and he said this would be done.

I inquired if there was a record of a telegram of any kind from Sparks to Briggs dated November 15, 16 or 17, and he said there was nothing to indicate Sparks stopped at the Tudor in November.

I told Mr. Donegan that a Grand Jury subpoena would be issued

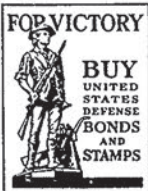
b3

[redacted]
[redacted] Mr. Donegan said appropriate action would be taken and that they would check further for the [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/27/85 BY [redacted]

Respectfully,

J. R. Mumford



9 JAN 20 1944 579

RECORDED
INDEXED

62-74406-82
F B I
18 JAN 20 1944

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b7C



Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

JKM:BK
2:00 p.m.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/27/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____ b6
Mr. Tracy _____ b7C
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____ b7D
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

In connection with my request earlier today that a check be made of the [redacted] ASAC Hennrich called and referred to one of the letters involved in this case (he thought it was dated November 23) in the last paragraph of which reference is made to two items, one for \$522 and one for \$219.

b7D

He also said in the letter of October 23 there is a reference to \$40. Mr. Hennrich said the [redacted]

he. It
was for
insurance
according to
let.

b7D

[redacted] Hennrich suggested they could find out who moved him and see if this is a moving bill. He said this could probably be handled out at Falls Church; there is no record, of course, as to whom the check was addressed. I told him there were allegedly insurance checks returned also and inquired if there were any such record of them. He said there would not necessarily be a record of them, but that this other was just a pencil notation on the record.

I told Mr. Hennrich for his information in connection with their contacts [redacted] that I had just talked with Mr. Schweinhaut and that Grand Jury subpoenas [redacted]

b7D

guided accordingly.

He said he would be

b3

Respectfully,

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

J. K. Mumford

62-7446-83
18 JAN 20 1944



9 JAN 20 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:BK
12:00 noon

*See serial 78
for complete list.*

Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 19, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/25/88 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____ b6
Mr. Hendon _____ b7C
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____ b7D
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Pursuant to my request earlier today, SAC Boardman, Cleveland,
telephonically advised that the following [redacted]
[redacted]

[Large redacted block]

Mr. Boardman advised that they are checking with [redacted] b7D

[redacted] and that it will take a short time longer for
this information. I inquired about [redacted]
and he said it would be extremely difficult; that he is working through a confidential
source. I told him if it could be handled discreetly, he should try to get them but
otherwise no action should be taken in that regard. He said if it is later desired
to subpoena them to let him know so he can make appropriate arrangements.



I told him to send a letter to the Bureau AMSD confirming the above.

*I called him later in day
and told him [redacted] issued
this [redacted]*

Respectfully,

RECORDED

INDEXED

K. Mumford

62-74411-84
F B I
13 JAN 20 1944
[Signature]

*He was told we are [redacted]
not [redacted]*

b3

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM: BK
10:00 A.M.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____ b6
Mr. Tracy _____ b7C
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

I called ASAC Hennrich, Washington Field Office, and conveyed to him the following instructions pursuant to our conversation with Mr. Tamm.

Mr. Hennrich was instructed to have [redacted]

[redacted] checked immediately. I briefly gave him the facts concerning the reference in the letters to checks having been returned in connection with premiums. It is interesting to note in this regard, and this was called to Mr. Hennrich's attention, that [redacted]

b7D

Mr. Hennrich was also instructed to have an immediate check made at the Carroll Arms to try to clarify the references made by Briggs to a woman's having paid \$4 in advance for Sparks' room apparently [redacted]

b3

Instructions were also issued that immediate inquiry should be made to clarify the matter of [redacted]

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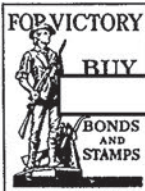
12:25 A.M.

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44 NOV 9 1964

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62-74466-85



I then called ASAC Donegan in New York, furnished him the present and former addresses and telephone numbers of Mr. Briggs and his office address, and requested that he immediately [redacted]

[redacted] to identify as thoroughly as possible any communications which might have been sent between the two.

b7D

46 JAN 20 1944

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5-2

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

- 2 -

10:27 A.M.

I telephonically contacted SAC Boardman, Cleveland, and requested that secure [redacted] b7D

[redacted] He stated this information would be secured and he would call me back.

* * * *

I called Mr. Coffey and conveyed to him the instructions that an examination be made of [redacted] for latent fingerprints and that they be compared with those appearing on the fingerprint card of George N. Briggs. After checking with Mr. Tamm, I further advised Mr. Coffey that the exhibits were not to be defaced, discolored or otherwise disfigured in any way without receipt of specific authorization.

b3

12:15 P.M.

Pursuant to Mr. Tamm's instructions, I called ASAC Hennrich and told him it was desired that two Agents interview Mr. Briggs' present and former secretaries. I arranged for the two Agents to come to my office at 1:00 P.M. so that, pursuant to Mr. Tamm's suggestion, they could accompany Mr. Burton to Mr. Briggs' office since Mr. Burton is already acquainted there. Mr. Hennrich said he would send SAs Hruska and Bishop.

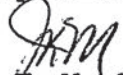
At about the same time Mr. Coffey advised me that Mr. Appel would like to have additional specimens so arrangement was made for Messrs. Burton, Hruska and Bishop to confer with Mr. Appel before proceeding to Mr. Briggs' office so that they could secure the desired specimens at the same time.

As a matter of record, during the course of the conversation with Mr. Briggs after the formal interview was concluded, he was asked concerning the identity of his secretaries. He stated he had had numerous ones in recent months; that Mrs. Wanda Smith has been his secretary now for the past two months, but that prior to that time he had a Mrs. Roberts for about two weeks, a Miss Erickson for a few days, a Miss Bilay (?) about two weeks, and then a Mrs. Vaden before that, but that during that period there were several others who came and went that he doesn't even remember.

12:35 P.M.

ASAC Hennrich called back with regard to the check I had requested be made at the Carroll Arms Hotel. He stated that Sparks checked in on January 6 and out on the same day; checked in January 11 and out January 12; and checked in again on January 13 and out on January 14. He stated it was learned Sparks is a regular guest there and he did not request reservations previous to his arrival; and that he always pays his bills in cash. He said that the Assistant Manager checked Sparks out on the 14th and he definitely recalled Sparks paid in cash. Clerk William H. Ward checked him out on the 12th and they are now trying to locate him so he can be questioned. Mr. Hennrich said apparently there is no indication anyone made a reservation for Sparks in advance.

Respectfully,


J. K. Mumford

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287



JJC:mkm

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Pursuant to the instructions of Mr. Mumford on the above date the writer procured the application form filed by ~~GEORGE N. BRIGGS~~ from the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

This was turned over to Mr. Appel of the Laboratory on the same date. It will be returned to the Civil Service Commission when it has served its purpose.

Respectfully,

J. J. Canavan
J. J. Canavan

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/27/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

20 JAN 20 1944

INDEXED

17

62-74466-86		
F	B	I
18 JAN 20 1944		

~~Bureau of Investigation~~
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
January 18, 1944

CEH:VIM
62-4792

Director, FBI

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

b6
b7c

ATTENTION: MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

In accordance with instructions received from Mr. J. K. MUMFORD, of the Bureau, on January 18, 1944, Special Agent JOHN A. SWARTZ determined at the Carroll Arms Hotel that SPARKS registered at that hotel on January 6, 1944, and checked out the same day. He registered again on January 11, 1944, and checked out on January 12, 1944, and on January 13, 1944, and checked out on January 14, 1944.

Assistant Manager J. V. VAN STORY informed that SPARKS is a regular customer of the hotel and no request for reservations was made prior to his arrival. VAN STORY also stated that SPARKS always pays his bill in cash.

The above is in confirmation of telephonic information furnished Mr. MUMFORD on January 18, 1944.

Very truly yours,

Guy Hottel
GUY HOTTEL
SAC
10

Memor. to

16 JAN 20 1944

RECORDED

62-4792-87	
8	1
JAN 20 1944	
5	

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
January 18, 1944

CEH:VIM
62-4792

Director, FBI

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

ATTENTION: MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DECLASSIFIED BY
CE 11-14-85

b6
b7C

Dear Sir:

Confirming information furnished to Mr. J. K. MUMFORD, of the Bureau, by ASAC C. E. HENNRICH, of this office, on January 18, 1944, regarding [REDACTED]

b7D

A partial review of [REDACTED]

b7D

There are [REDACTED] been photographed by recordaks which have not as yet been located for examination. These entries are as follows:



IND

62-7496-88
F B I
18 JAN 20 1944

COPIES DESTROYED
44 NOV 9 1964

*will be reviewed
in connection with
1/19/44*

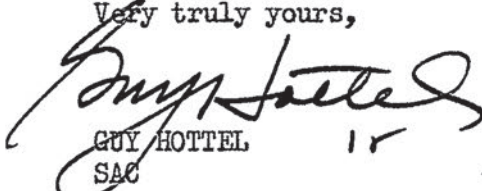
Director, P & C
C. NELSON SPARKS
January 18, 1944
62-4792



b7D

The above information was all furnished in strict confidence and it will be necessary that the bank be protected by subpoena in the event any information is desired for outside sources.

Very truly yours,


GUY HOTTEL
SAC



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CAA:RB

January 18, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____ b6
Mr. Harbo _____ b7C
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

Re: Unknown Subjects: Harry L. Hopkins,
Victim - Misc. (Possible Violation
of District of Columbia Statutes
Prohibiting Forging and Uttering of
Document to the Injury of Another)

As per your instructions, Examiners Dingle and Webb worked on the specimens submitted last night, completing their work this morning about 8:30. They have prepared the attached report.

I have compared the typewriting on the questioned letter signed "Harry Hopkins" with that of the known specimens and have come to the conclusion that the questioned letter was written on typewriter M5221919-11 which is described as an Underwood in the outer office of George Briggs. Two other known typewriting specimens were submitted, one from his inner office and the other from his home. Neither of these could have written the questioned letter as they are different design type.

A comparison was made between the known typewriting specimens and the group of originals of telegrams, heretofore called K2. The known specimens of Underwood Typewriter #4282905, which is the one described as being in Briggs' inside office, were written on a very worn typewriter ribbon. Unlike the machine in the outer office, this typewriter does not have as many clear defects. I do not mean that it is not possible to identify this typewriter, because it is clear that this typewriter was used to write some of the telegrams and some of the letters. It is believed, however, that additional specimens should be obtained from this machine in which the operator varies the touch and uses some of the wording in the questioned letters. Some of these specimens should also be written on the soft, scratch pad paper on which some of the questioned specimens were written.

RECORDED

INDEXED

62-74466-89
F B I
18 JAN 20 1944



COPIES DESTROYED

44 NOV 9 1964

1/18/44
Summary Memo
Jm 34

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/24/85 BY

C. Nelson Sparks

ENTERED

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 13, 1944

62-74466-89

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am transmitting herewith a copy of a Memorandum Laboratory Report dated January 10, 1944, in the Harry Hopkins matter. It will be noted that the original letter has been identified as having been written on a typewriter in the reception room of George Briggs and that other letters introduced by Nelson Sparks before the grand jury have been identified both as to typewriting and handwriting as having been prepared by Briggs.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

b6
b7C

DECLASSIFIED BY
ON 9-21-85

Attachment

cc- Mr. Tom C. Clark, with encl
Mr. Henry Schweinhaut, with encl.

RECEIVED

52 JAN 20 1943
50 JAN 20 1943

January 18, 1944

FEDERATION LABORATORY REPORT

RE: Alleged Forgery
Harry Hopkins Letter

A summary of the Laboratory findings to date during the examination of the so-called "Briggs" sample specimens follows. All of the Briggs material has not finally been studied and the examination on these is continuing.

1. The forged Harry Hopkins letter of August 17, 1943, is found to have been written on an Underwood typewriter, serial #1321919-11, which is reported to be in the outer office or reception room of George Briggs.

2. Several of the typewritten letters signed "George Briggs" and which were in the file of twenty-two miscellaneous pieces of mail, most of which were addressed to Sparks, have been found to have been written on an Underwood typewriter, serial #1321919-11, which is reported to be in the main office of Mr. George Briggs. Also, several of the original drafts of telegrams have been found to have been prepared on this typewriter. The study of the remainder of these letters and original telegram drafts is continuing, and final conclusions have not been reached because additional known specimens from the typewriter in question are being obtained prepared in several forms more comparable to the letters and telegrams.

Mr. Tolson _____ Mr. George Briggs was found to have written the signature and, in some Mr. E. A. Tamm _____ the handwriting appearing on the correspondence listed below. This Mr. Clegg _____ conclusion is based upon a study of the samples of handwriting furnished by Mr. Mr. Clegg _____ of his writing and signature.

Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____ The word "George" on letter of November 16 addressed to Sparks
Mr. Nichols _____ (of Exhibit #19-A)
Mr. Rosen _____ "George" on letter of November 24 addressed to Sparks
Mr. Tracy _____ (of Exhibit #20-A)
Mr. Carson _____ All of the ink writing on letter of November 13 addressed to Sparks
Mr. Harbo _____ (of Exhibit #17-A)
Mr. Hendon _____ All of the ink writing on letter of October 21 addressed to Sparks
Mr. McGuire _____ (of Exhibit #12-A)
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

(The above report was summarized by EPC from examiner's report.)

ENCLOSURE

62-74466-89

News Lab Report

The words "Air Mail Special" on envelope addressed to Sparks
(QJ Exhibit #10)
The word "George" on letter of November 16 addressed to Sparks
(QJ Exhibit #13-A)
Signature "George M. Briggs" on letter of September 16 addressed
to Sparks (QJ Exhibit #2)
Signature "George Briggs" on letter of October 13 addressed to
Sparks (QJ Exhibit #9)

ALSO:

Words in the address of telegram of May 20 addressed to P. W. Fahy
beginning "Please advise--"
Words "Room 5138" on draft of telegram of October 2 addressed to
Briggs at Scranton, Pennsylvania, beginning "Keep a stiff--"
Words "George M. Briggs, Room 5138" on draft of telegram of July 3
addressed to H. K. Skillet, reading "Hold everything, please."

Re: Unknown Subjects: Harry L. Hopkins,
Victim - Misc. (Possible Violation
of District of Columbia Statutes
Prohibiting Forging and Uttering of
Document to the Injury of Another)

Specimens from an Underwood Typewriter, Serial #M-5229119-11, in the reception office of George N. Briggs, an Underwood Typewriter, Serial #4282905-11, in the private office of George N. Briggs and handwriting specimens of George Briggs were submitted by Mr. Ladd's office. Specimens from an Underwood Typewriter, Serial #3861780-5, in the home of George Briggs were submitted by SA J. O. Bishop of the Washington Field Office. As a result of the comparison of these specimens with the previously submitted specimens the following conclusions were reached.

The typewriting on specimen Q1 was written on the Underwood Typewriter, Serial #M-5229119-11. No conclusion was reached whether the questioned signature "Harry L. Hopkins" was written by George N. Briggs because of the limited known specimen. However general similarities were noted in the known and questioned specimens.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/21/85 BY [redacted]

b3
b6
b7C

1.

ENCLOSURE

74466-89

Page Two



b3

George Dingle
F. E. Webb

[Handwritten signature]

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:BK

Handwritten: m

Handwritten: JLM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD *Handwritten: JLM*

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

b3

Handwritten: ENCLOSURE 11-10-44

Respectfully,

Handwritten: JLM
J. K. Mumford

Attachments *Handwritten: (all information contained herein is unclassified by 256586)*

b6
b7C

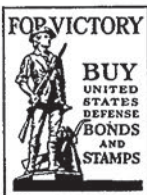
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY #256586

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
34

Handwritten: 62-74466-90

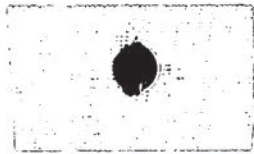
F	B
18 JAN 20 1944	

Handwritten: 59



9 JAN 20 1944

jm



- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Acers _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Mumford _____
- Mr. Starke _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____ b6
- Mr. Nease _____ b7C
- Miss Beahm _____
- Miss Gandy _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE January 18, 1944

CAA:RB

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY

Re: Unknown Subjects: Harry L. Hopkins,
Victim - Misc. (Possible Violation
of District of Columbia Statutes
Prohibiting Forging and Uttering of
Document to the Injury of Another)

The specimens on Underwood Typewriter, Serial 4282905-11,
described as being the one in Briggs' own office on a typewriter
stand next to his chair were written on a well-worn ribbon, and the
machine itself is in comparatively good condition. Many of the notes
and letters to Sparks were probably written on this machine, but it
is desired to get additional specimens before a definite final con-
clusion is reached. The reason is the difference in the paper, the
difference in the wording and the difference in the typewriter ribbon.
If there is another typewriter of this make on which might have
written, specimens of this also should be obtained.



Respectfully,

if more handprints of
his is found - or if he offers
to make handprinting samples
of his writing.

C. A. Appel

Agent should
see Appel for
paper + directions
as to how to take
the additional specimens
we need.

9 JAN 20 1944

Memor Ladd
get 1/19/44

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 19, 1944

GCB:RMB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: GEORGE N. BRIGGS MATTER

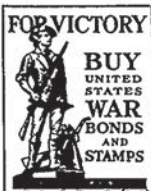
Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford ✓
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Reference is made to the writer's memorandum to you dated January-17, enclosing typewriting specimens from the two machines in the suite of offices occupied by George N. Briggs, Interior Department. Since the Laboratory requested more specimens of the machine in Briggs' personal office, namely Underwood Standard Typewriter Serial 4282905-11, the writer conferred with Mr. Appel of the Laboratory and learned that additional specimens were desired using a different type of paper, different wording and a new typewriter ribbon. These were obtained on the afternoon of January 18 with the assistance of Miss Ellen Downes, Secretary to Secretary Ickes. These were delivered to Mr. English of the Laboratory who advised he would put them in Mr. Appel's hands. Mr. Appel also requested additional specimens of Briggs' handlettering be obtained, and with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior Ickes, the writer and Special Agents Bishop and Hruska of the Washington Field Office made an examination of Briggs' office and found two of Secretary Ickes' manuscripts which Briggs' had corrected in handprinting and also a telephone index which contained some of Briggs' handprinting. With the approval of Secretary Ickes, these were borrowed for examination in the Laboratory and were returned to Miss Downes on the morning of January 19th.

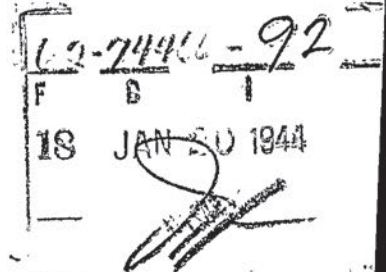
Respectfully,

G. C. Burton

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
34



52 JAN 20 1944



T

Typewriter Repair
(Willoughby)

5047

Time

Dis 2525

V

Virginia

FSA - SS

Apt 242 - Col. Village

2774 (line drawn through 2774)
2712

Vaden

Ch. 7500
Ext. 708

Varvavo (?)

ONI - 74143

W

Western Union

4186

Wolfsohn

3806
3086 (line drawn through)

White

648

Washington Hotel

Me 5900

Whalen, Winifred

2183

Whitman (coal)

Ext 2367

Y

Yogom

3844



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

SI:mkm

January 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Upon instructions from Mr. Mumford, contact was made with the Ident Division in an effort to locate JOSEPH GILPIN YOUNG SANBORN, believed to be presently in the U.S. Army. Efforts of the Ident Division to locate an Army record for SANBORN were unsuccessful and contact with the War Department proved negative. A further check by the Ident Division located a Navy print for SANBORN.

Lieutenant Commander Truscott, ONI, furnished the information that SANBORN was accepted for service in the U.S. Navy on September 29, 1942 and is presently a Chief Quartermaster, Class M-1, U.S.N.R., Service Number 603-59-46. Truscott advised that on October 25, 1943, SANBORN was assigned to the U.S.S. Tourmaline, which, according to the best information available to Lieutenant Commander Truscott, was at the present time at New York City. He stated that this could be verified through the DIO at New York.

Respectfully,

G. C. Burton

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

*Donegan told to
see file & secure statement
re printing of Civil Service
fingerprints and identification
1/18/44*

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-74466-93

18 JAN 20 1944

JAN 20 1944



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 19, 1944

JKM:PES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Attached is a list of the names, telephone numbers, addresses and other notations appearing in a patented desk pad, the type with the automatic margin alphabet indicator, which was the personal property of and found on the desk of George N. Briggs in his office. The pad itself was brought to the Bureau by Supervisor G. C. Burton and made available to the Laboratory for comparison purposes. The attached list was prepared for possible assistance in the investigation of Mr. Briggs. A copy was furnished to an Agent of the Washington Field Office this forenoon.

With further regard to the above-mentioned pad and preliminary rough drafts of speeches which were interlineated by Briggs in handprinting and which were secured by Supervisor Burton and turned over to the Laboratory for examination, it will be recalled that Mr. Ickes had requested their return by 11:00 a.m. today. Mr. Burton advised that Mr. Ickes mentioned he wanted them returned so that if Briggs, who is under suspension, called there for his personal property, the desk pad would be available for him. I therefore called Mr. Appel of the Laboratory and he advised me that effort should definitely be made to preserve the desk pad since it contains printing by Briggs which is excellent for comparison purposes and for testimony. He stated that the interlineated speeches would also be desirable, although they are not absolutely necessary.

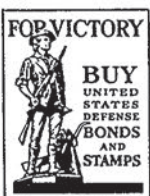
I then talked to Mr. Henry Schweinhaut of the Department and told him of this situation. It happened that at the time Mr. Appel was in Mr. Schweinhaut's office with him. After we had rechecked with Mr. Appel and learned that he had had photographic copies of the desk pad made and was retaining them, Mr. Schweinhaut stated that it would not be necessary to impound the desk pad or issue a subpoena for it; that the photographic copies would suffice. I accordingly returned the desk pad and the preliminary rough drafts of the speeches to Mr. Burton for return to the Secretary.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

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44 NOV 9 1964



RECORDED
&
INDEXED
34

62-74466-94
F B I
18 JAN 20 1944

9 JAN 20 1944

GEORGE N. BRIGGS' ADDRESS BOOK

A

Air Conditioning	2582
Akers (line drawn through)	MI 5274
Allen	3334
Ady	2829

B

Burlew (line drawn through)	511
226 W. Broad St., Falls Church	
Briggs, Geo. N.	WA 1810 (line drawn through number)
1961 W	
Dr. H. R. Brown	WA 3240
Beulah	RE 7500
(War Agencies)	Br. 2398 (line through number)
	74462
Brooks Studio	NA 1078
Building Supt.	2122
Beeckman	War Manpower Br. 2819
Browning	610
Rm. 6040 (or 604A)	
Beley, Mary	3407
Beals, Miss	DL 5505
H. Beier	EXEC 3340
	Ex. 175
J. R. B. Bower	Nat. War
	814 - Ext. 5231

C

Compton	719
---------	-----

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44 NOV 9 1964

ENCLOSURE

62-74466-94

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

Campbell, Duncan
2100 Conn. Ave
Apt. 208
Office

HO 5100

2462

Christian, J. J.
1201 N. Howard
Glendale, Calif.

Clark, Phil

683

Col. Bill Carey

3397.

Corbett (line drawn through)

5009

Conley

696

"Call Carl, Inc."
Mr. Kirby

ME 1230

Clark, Dow (crossed out)
OWI REP 7500

Ext. 73914

D

Davies

3831, 3832 & 623

Dearling (?)

5008

Downes

507 (line drawn through)
5007

District Bldg.

NA 6000

E

Easley

614

Erickson

401, 694 (both crossed out)
694

F

Film Developing (line through)
Rm. 5411

2501

Frey

4646

Fortas

4545 (line drawn through number)
5001

Flood

4831

Farelli Rm. 6126 (crossed out)
6132

Fleming - OWI (crossed out)
War Agencies Ext. 71842 814

Mrs. Page Ext. 71407 OWI
War Agencies

FAB 2143

Fitzgerald, OWI War Agencies 814
3351 Soc. Sec. Bldg. Ext. 44143

G

Guandola 4183

G.W. University NA 5200

Garage - Ramp
(Mr. Briggs) 5-D D-Ramp - 7578

Gauss 3609

Graves, Ethel 5009 (?)

H

Holland (line drawn through) 643

Mrs. Hull 792 (line drawn through number)
1224 Congress St. SE

Miss Hester (Garland) 180
Exec. Office
(Press Intelligence)

Hartley Coal 72

Hamilton Hotel DI 2580

Harrison 5035

Mrs. Healey (Fortas) 5001

Hubacker 778 (Supplies)

Hagood 5081

Houlihan, Miss 2345

I

Ide, Chandler	3833
Information	3134
Information, Division of	3171

J

Jim (crossed out)	Water Registrar (crossed out)
	NA 6000 " "
Jim " "	ME 6941 " "
Johnson, Floyd (line drawn through) 718	
Jackson - FLW	4717

K

Kelly	3407
Kubach (Recla)	3910
Kirkpatrick	4012 - 4013
Kelvin 6 Phelps St., Vallejo, Calif.	

L

Layton	5008 (line drawn through) 508
Leave (Mrs. Mellie Jordan)	5029 528 (line drawn through)
Lowith	4831 (line drawn through)
Library of Congress Reading Rm.	526 (line drawn through)
Lindsay --	
Lindquist 324 Bowen Bldg. 815 - 15th N. W.	Ex 7271

M

Murray	5000
Mack, Theodore	5069
Messengers	2615 640
Monn	503 (line drawn through)
McGrillis (or McCrillis)	5009
Mayflower	DI 3000
Moulding (or Maulding)	701
Mosby	R- 3138 Ext 3425 737 (line drawn through)

M (continued)

Movious

- 86 - 98

N

Nelson, Sen. Arthur E.
Rm. 382, Mayflower

Nichols, WLB

(War Agencies)
72042

Nancy Briggs

Pub. Phone
Woodley 9661
" 0953

O

Official Dining Rm. 513

Orlosky

Ch 8200

OWI - Press Intelligence
F. S. Gardephe (?)

Re 7500
Ext 75210

71842 - Friedline

P

Padover

2278

Parham

614 (line drawn through)

Press Intelligence

Ex. Off 180
Miss Hester

Research - Miss Rusk
Personnel Files

182
535

Preece, Alec A., Dr.

Re 4600

Petroleum Supplies

4614
Rm. 6428

Pioneer

Mi 1315

Public Library
(Reference Room)

Na 6776

R

Roth Rm. 5360	4864
Reichle (supplies)	691
Romeicke	Mi 1706
Raleigh Hotel	Na 3810
Rawles	5024
Rowe, Mrs. Elizabeth	5011 (line drawn through)
Rosengarten (?)	Me 3577
Sheen, Al	Justice (line drawn through) 808
Straus	5081 3171 (line drawn through 3171)
Swanson	649
Sessions	4650 (line drawn through or 3844 5650 or 3844) 2621
Slaughter	797 798
Shop (Elec.)	724
Snook	2422 (Int. Revenue)
Snead	72565 (line drawn through) (WP.B.)
Shop (carpenter)	2598
Stevens, H. A.	2619
Speech Clearance Mrs. Eva Page Rm. 3339 Social Security Bldg.	Ext 71407 Ext. 71842
Smith, J. E. (639)	2651

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:BK
2:15 P.M.
62-74466

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____ b7D

ASAC Hennrich, Washington Field, called at this time to advise it had just been determined through an extremely discreet contact made by an informant with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Washington. The informant [REDACTED] that residence and was advised by [REDACTED] that he was not there at the moment but that [REDACTED]

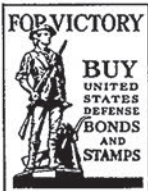
Agents are presently en route to this address in an effort to resume the surveillance and are also continuing coverage of the daughter. It is believed by the informant [REDACTED]

Respectfully,

J. E. Mumford

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/80 BY [REDACTED]



RECORDED
&
INDEXED
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62-74466-95		
F	B	I
18 JAN 20 1944		

9 JAN 20 1944

PMS:BGW
62-4792

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington Field Division, 1435 K Street, N.W.
Washington 25, D.C.

January 19, 1944

Director, FBI

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

ATTENTION: MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DECLASSIFIED BY
9-30-85

b6
b7C

Dear Sir:

This is to confirm information furnished to Mr. J. K. MUMFORD
of the Bureau by ASAC C. E. HENNRICH of this office on January 18, 1944,
regarding [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

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9 JAN 20 1944

16-96
20 1944

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Washington Field Division - 1435 K Street, N. W.

DAH:MPG

Washington, D.C.

January 19, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted] b6 b7C

Attention: Mr. D. M. LADD

Director, FBI

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to instructions issued by Mr. J. K. MUMFORD to Special Agents JESSE O. BISHOP, JR. and DANIEL A. HRUSKA, the following present and former secretaries of Mr. GEORGE N. BRIGGS were interviewed:

Miss WANDA SMITH, present secretary to Mr. BRIGGS, advised that she has been in Mr. BRIGGS' office since October 18, 1943; that she never wrote any personal letters for Mr. BRIGGS because he writes his own letters unless they are letters pertaining to any official business. She stated that Mr. BRIGGS was a very good typist and made use of his own personal typewriter, which was located at his own desk, to a very large extent. In connection with the sending of telegrams, Miss SMITH advised it was Mr. BRIGGS' custom to rough draft his telegrams and then request her to telephone the Western Union office and that a messenger would be directed to his office where the rough draft of the telegram would be personally obtained from Mr. BRIGGS.

Miss SMITH, after observing the letters which were published in the January 18th issue of the Times-Herald, advised that the signatures were very similar to the signatures of Mr. BRIGGS; however, she added that he always signed the official mail "GEO. N. BRIGGS." She further related that White House stationery is readily accessible at the Department of the Interior inasmuch as they often prepare letters for the President's signature.

She informed that she has not at any time heard the names of C. NELSON SPARKS, FRANK PHILLIPS, or UMPHREY LEE mentioned by Mr. BRIGGS and she is certain that none of these gentlemen have visited Mr. BRIGGS in his office. She also definitely recalled that she has never received any dictation from Mr. BRIGGS which was directed to any of the above names and has never seen Mr. BRIGGS write any letters to any of them. She advised that the first information she has received concerning the Hopkins letter or anything relating to same was when she read the Times-Herald newspaper. She mentioned, however, that sometime back an item appeared in a column which

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9 JAN 20 1944

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18 JAN 20 1944

Director
1-19-44
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

she believed was written by DREW PEARSON which made some reference to Mr. BRIGGS in connection with the book prepared by Mr. SPARKS entitled "One Man/Willkie." She remembered that Mr. BRIGGS at this time made the remark that he knew absolutely nothing about the statement made by Mr. PEARSON concerning him. Miss SMITH related that during the time that she has been assigned to his office that he has not been absent from same, has not had an opportunity to make a trip to Texas, or to any other point of such distance, and that she has been in daily touch with him.

Miss MARY BELAY, Division of Personnel Supervision and Management, Department of the Interior, advised that she had served as Mr. BRIGGS' secretary for two weeks in January 1943 and also from October 11th to October 16th, 1943; that during this time she never took any dictation which did not relate to official matters inasmuch as BRIGGS did his own secretarial work for his personal correspondence. She stated that during the week in October she took only two or three letters from BRIGGS and that these letters did not concern SPARKS, PHILLIPS or LEE hereinbefore mentioned. Miss BELAY observed the letter which was written on October 15, 1943, and which was published in the Times-Herald, to Mr. C. NELSON SPARKS, and advised that she did not type that letter and advised further that instant letter was set up in block indentation which was contrary to her style of typing. Miss BELAY also stated that White House stationery was available in Mr. BRIGGS' office and further that the signatures appearing on the letters published in the Times-Herald appeared to be the signatures of Mr. BRIGGS. She could not recall that any telegrams were sent from Mr. BRIGGS' office during her assignment to same.

Miss FLORA ERICKSON, Division of Personnel Supervision and Management, Department of the Interior, stated that she was Mr. BRIGGS' secretary from the latter part of January 1943 to May 6, 1943, when Mrs. VADEN returned as BRIGGS' secretary; that BRIGGS typed a good deal and that he typed all of his personal letters and articles which he was preparing for Secretary ICKES. She stated that the names of SPARKS, PHILLIPS, and LEE were unfamiliar to her and that at no time did she take any dictation pertaining to these individuals. She corroborated the advice of the others interviewed relating to the mechanics of sending telegrams from Mr. BRIGGS' office. Miss ERICKSON observed the letters in the Times-Herald and advised that the signatures and initials used on these letters were similar to the signatures and initials used by Mr. GEORGE N. BRIGGS.

Miss PAULINE ROBERTS, Division of Territories, was interviewed at her home at 2804 14th Street, N. W., and advised that she had only worked for BRIGGS for one week immediately following the departure of Mrs. VADEN in September, 1943, she not being able to definitely remember whether it was the third or fourth week in September. She stated that during this

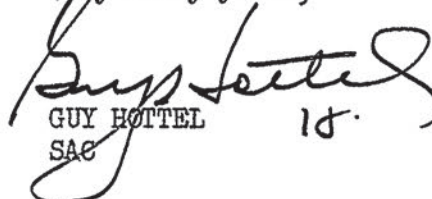
Oct 2

Director
1-19-44
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

period at no time did she take any dictation from BRIGGS and the only work that she had done for BRIGGS was to type some rough draft material pertaining to an article which BRIGGS was writing for Secretary ICKES. She could not recall that any telegrams were sent from BRIGGS' office during her stay. She knew absolutely nothing concerning the WILLKIE book written by SPARKS nor had she ever heard anything in regard to instant matter. Miss ROBERTS added that BRIGGS was a very good typist and she had observed him typing numerous articles for Secretary ICKES. She observed the signatures of BRIGGS which appeared on the letters published in the Times-Herald and advised that the signatures were very similar to the signatures of Mr. BRIGGS.

Miss ELLEN DOWNS, Secretary in Secretary ICKES' office, ascertained from Mrs. J. ATWOOD MAULDING, Director of Personnel, that no permanent record is kept of temporary assignments of secretaries in the Department. For this reason it was impossible to determine the names of the individuals who may have served as temporary secretaries to Mr. BRIGGS.

Very truly yours,


GUY HOTTEL
SAC 18

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:BK
3:25 PM

Special Agent in Charge
Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____ b6
Mr. Tracy _____ b7C
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

I telephonically contacted Mr. Henry Schweinhaut,
Special Assistant to the Attorney General, and advised him

[redacted] I told him
that during the interview with Briggs we checked the various
ones with him. [redacted]

[redacted] He
indicated this could be arranged very easily.

b7D

I inquired if it is necessary to [redacted]

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

RECORDED

INDEXED

8:45 P.M.

I tried several times subsequent to the above call to again reach
Mr. Schweinhaut, and finally he called me from home. He indicated that the

[redacted]
[redacted] He also expressed a desire for a transcript of the interview with
Briggs conducted at the Bureau, and I told him it had been prepared and was
in the course of submission. He stated he was very anxious to secure the
information the Bureau had concerning [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] et cetera, would contact me about it tomorrow morning, and
would like to have it all in writing by 1:30 P.M. tomorrow. I assured
him it would be ready.

J.K.M.



9 JAN 20 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 19, 1944

KCH'DM

Time of Call:
7:25 PM
1/19/43

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/30/85 BY [redacted]

At the above time Special Agent Durkin, who is Resident Agent at Alexandria, Virginia, called concerning instructions given by me to the Richmond Office to [redacted]

[redacted] in accordance with the Department's request. In my absence the call was taken by Supervisor K. C. Howe.

[redacted]

b7D

In the above regard Mr. Durkin stated he had already learned that the [redacted] had gone out for the evening with his wife and he didn't know whether he would be available in any event. He had also learned from the [redacted], presumably for transmission to the FBI, although this latter is not certain.

Mr. Durkin stated [redacted]

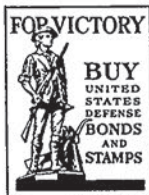
[redacted] and have them in to the Bureau before noon.

b7D

ACTION: Mr. Durkin was informed that in view of the foregoing and his assurance that the information would be in the hands of the Bureau before noon, that he should not contact [redacted] or take any action in the matter tonight, unless advised to the contrary at his home, telephone number: Michigan 0470.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford



9 JAN 20 1944

RECORDED

62-74466-99	
F	B
18 JAN 20 1944	

January 14, 1944

11:56AM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. TAMM
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS

HARRY L. HOPKINS

I called Harry Hopkins to advise him SAC Conroy interviewed Frank Phillips in New York this morning and Phillips denied knowing Briggs or having any knowledge of the letter other than what he has read in the papers. I also told Hopkins we are arranging to contact Phillips again to see if he would be willing to possibly testify next Tuesday.

Hopkins was advised that our examinations reveal that the typewriter used in the preparation of the letter is not a White House machine, and that the signature is not that of Hopkins'. I informed him, likewise, that a surveillance is being maintained on Briggs.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-74466-100
F B I
18 JAN 17 1944

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 5:30 PM
DATE 1/18/44
BY [signature]

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

62 JAN 26 1944

b6
b7c

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:BK

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 15, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

9:00 P.M., 1/15/44

ASAC Hennrich, Washington Field Office, called me at home with regard to the surveillance of George Briggs and advised it had just been learned the suite in the apartment building immediately adjacent to the one occupied by Briggs is vacant. He inquired as to the Bureau's attitude toward renting the apartment if such could be done discreetly and using a microphone for assistance in the surveillance.

I told him he could go ahead and rent the apartment and use a contact microphone if such could be done with absolute security.

10:45 A.M., 1/17/44

Mr. Hennrich telephonically advised me the surveillance on Briggs has just determined he is presently in Room 213 of the Standard Oil Building, Third and Constitution, the law offices of Henry J. Fox and Stanley R. Posner.

He also referred to his call to me Saturday night concerning the renting of the apartment adjacent to the one occupied by Briggs. He said the rental proposition is going to be quite difficult and he didn't know whether they would be able to arrange it or not. The apartment is not controlled by [redacted] but is under the Defense Homes Corporation [redacted]

I told him if there is any possibility of embarrassment to the Bureau, no further consideration should be given this item. He said they would, of course, keep this in mind.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

RECORDED & INDEXED

21 JAN 18 1944

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]



62 JAN 26 1944

JKM:VK
tr. 1/19/44

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~BY SPECIAL MESSENGER~~

62-74466-102

Honorable Harry L. Hopkins
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Harry:

I am returning herewith the material on C. Nelson Sparks and The Nation which Miss Kraus so kindly sent to Mr. Tamm on January 17, 1944.

I have had copies made for my file and have sent copies to Mr. Henry S. Schweinhart in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

With expressions of my highest esteem,

Sincerely yours,

~~W. R. Rorer~~

b6
b7C

Enclosure

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 8
JAN 19 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. Tamm, FBI

Dear Mr. Tamm:

Mr. Hopkins has asked me to
send you the enclosed material on
C. Nelson Sparks and The Nation,
for your information.

When it has served its purpose
will you kindly return it to me?

Sincerely yours,

D. E. Krauss
Secy. to Harry Hopkins

DECLASSIFIED ON 1-29-98

Per Mr. did 1/27/98

b6
b7C

6 ENCL
7/2

encls.

11/19/44

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-7441-102

35 JAN 21 1944

~~SECRET~~

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:BK
62-74466

January 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

I contacted Mr. Schweinhaut as I understood he was interested in certain information from George N. Briggs' Civil Service application form. He said that Maynard Smith wanted to know whether Briggs had ever been employed by the Chicago Tribune.

I told him the application form indicated Briggs was employed by the Tribune from June, 1909 to June, 1911; yearly salary, \$1,300; nature of duties, writer, Sunday Department; and also from August, 1912 to April, 1916; salary \$2,080; nature of duties, writer, Sunday Department. Mr. Schweinhaut expressed his appreciation for this advice.

Respectfully,



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-28 BY [redacted]

J. K. Mumford

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

9 JAN 21 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

b6
b7C



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:BK
62-74466

January 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/30/85 BY [redacted]

In connection with the memorandum received from Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark dated January 19, 1944 setting out certain investigative leads in the captioned matter, the following instructions were issued to the various field offices:

5:00 P.M.

Item 3. I called ASAC Hennrich, Washington Field, advising him of Item 3 indicating that Briggs has had two law suits filed against him in the District since 1941 and requesting that a brief of the law suits be made, setting out the charges claimed in the cases, etc.

Item 5. I requested Mr. Hennrich to secure [redacted]

b7D

Item 9. I advised Mr. Hennrich of the Department's request that the creditors who held liens on Briggs' home in Washington, D. C. be interviewed to see if Briggs made any payments or had any other transactions personally or by telephone between September 27 and October 9 (the time he is alleged to have been in Dallas.

I told Mr. Hennrich of the Director's notation on the reference memorandum instructing that these leads be covered and the results submitted to the Department immediately. He stated they would be appropriately covered.

5:55 P.M.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-74466-104

Item 3. I called ASAC Traynor, St. Paul, advising him of the Department's request that the law suits filed against Briggs in St. Paul, should be briefed. I furnished him information to the effect that Briggs resided in St. Paul from 1916 until 1941; that from April 1916 to May 1923 he said he was with the Dispatch Pioneer Press as City Editor, Sunday Editor, and Political Editor; and that from May 1923 to June 1941 he owned and directed the Minnesota Legislative Research Bureau. I told him a St. Paul credit report indicated Briggs had to have numerous accounts collected from him by attorneys, et cetera. I advised Mr. Traynor of the Director's notation and he said the desired information would be submitted in accordance with the instructions.



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44 NOV 9 1964

9 JAN 21 1946

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

- 2 -

6:10 P.M.

Item 7. I called SAC Danner at Dallas advising him that the leading hotels in Dallas should be checked to ascertain if George N. ~~Briggs~~ were a guest between the dates September 27 and October 10, 1943. /

Miscellaneous Investigation Item 2. I also told Mr. Danner of the Department's desire that the secretary, or secretaries, of Frank Phillips be interviewed and statements taken as to whether they have any information about the alleged Hopkins letter since, according to Sparks, Phillips' secretary arranged an interview between Briggs and Dr. Umphrey ~~Lee~~ in Dallas so that Lee might show Briggs the Hopkins letter. I told him any action on this lead should be held up pending advice from SAC Conroy, New York, regarding the identity of Phillips' secretary in Dallas.

I told him of the Director's notation regarding the urgency of this matter. He stated the information would be submitted pursuant to instructions.

6:25 P.M.

I contacted SAC Conroy, New York, regarding Item 2 under Miscellaneous Investigation (referred to above) and told him to contact Frank Phillips in New York to determine if he has anyone in Dallas who would qualify as his secretary who might have arranged the above alleged contact between Briggs and Dr. Lee, as alleged by Sparks. I told him these were the specific instructions of the Department. Mr. Conroy said this contact with Mr. Phillips would be handled immediately.

Miscellaneous Investigation Item 1. I told Mr. Conroy of the request in this paragraph that E. C. Rayner, president of the Rayner Printing Company in New York, be interviewed as [REDACTED]

b3

[REDACTED] I told him two experienced Agents should handle this interview. I also advised him of the inquiries instituted by WPB in connection with the use of the paper utilized in printing the book, "One Man - Wendell Willkie," and pointed out that Rayner may already have been contacted by WPB in that connection. I also advised him that one item which should be brought out in the interview was the fact that according to Sparks on either November 15 or 16 he received advice from Briggs that the word "Alamo" would have to be deleted from the first sentence of the Hopkins letter before it was published, and that Sparks said he called the publisher and the publisher called the printer to have that one word deleted before the book was actually printed; I told him the book was off the press on November 17. I suggested the Agents should question Rayner about this deletion. I told Mr. Conroy about the Director's notation and instructed that the results of the inquiries be submitted by teletype and marked to my attention. He said this would be done.

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

- 3 -

6:35 P.M.

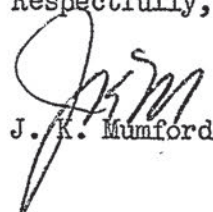
Miscellaneous Investigation Item 4: I advised ASAC Hennrich of the request from the Department that George Movius, secretary to Senator Nye, be interviewed. I also told him for his information that Movius is the ghost writer of this book. I suggested that two Agents should conduct the interview and instructed that the results be submitted as soon as possible.

6:53 P.M.

SAC Conroy, New York, telephonically informed Supervisor K. C. Howe that he had contacted Frank Phillips in accordance with my instructions; that Phillips said he has no secretary in Dallas; that he has secretaries in New York City and Bartlesville, Oklahoma but that none of those secretaries have been in Dallas as long as he can remember, at least for several months past; and that his secretaries could not have been in contact with anyone down there on this matter.

Inasmuch as I had told SAC Danner, Dallas, that in the absence of advice from Mr. Conroy or the Bureau, he should disregard any lead to contact Phillips' secretary in Dallas, no further call was made to Danner. He advised at the time of my conversation with him that so far as is known, there is no office of the Phillips Petroleum Company in Dallas, but merely some plants in that section of Texas.

Respectfully,


J. K. Mumford

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

JKM:EK
9:05 A.M.
62-74466

January 20, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

ASAC Hennrich, Washington Field Office, telephonically advised that George N. Briggs spend last night at the home of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Clare Briggs, 4434 Hawthorne Street, N.W.; that he took his daughter to school this morning; and that he has now returned to the Hawthorne Street address. He indicated the Agents haven't seen Briggs' wife since last night.

The physical surveillance of Briggs is continuing.

Respectfully,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/28/83 BY 62-74466-105



J. K. Mumford

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

18 JAN 21 1944

9 JAN 21 1944

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b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

JKM:PEB

Call: 9:30 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

ASAC Hennrich advised that in connection with the surveillance of George N. Briggs, he is at the present time at the Kennedy-Warren Apartments, probably to see Linguist, the attorney who has an office on 15th Street, where Briggs visited the other day, and who lives at the Kennedy-Warren.

Respectfully,

J. H. Mumford
J. H. Mumford

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/20/88 BY [redacted]



9 JAN 21 1944

CC-287

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

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1.2-74466-106
F B I
RECORDED & INDEXED
JAN 21 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:BK/11:40 A.M.
62-74466

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ASAC Hennrich, Washington Field, telephonically advised that in checking for any suits filed against George N. Briggs in the District of Columbia, they have found that about \$7,500 is involved, one of which is a big note out of St. Paul filed against him. He made a compromise on it for about \$3,500 which was to have been paid by the first of August. However, he didn't pay anything so they filed for the entire amount. Briggs interposed no answer to the pleadings or no defense and a judgment was entered against him for about \$7,000. Mr. Hennrich said there are several others pending against him, but they are smaller. He said this fits right in because the \$3,500 was due at the first of August; so when Briggs saw he was going to have to pay the whole amount, he started trying to get rid of his house. Apparently he was buying the house over in Virginia; Agents are checking over there now.

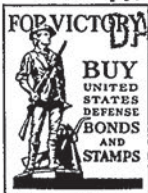
11:55 A.M. At this time Hennrich advised that as a result of this judgment there was a subpoena duces tecum issued in a supplementary procedure in an effort to collect the judgment for him to appear at the law office of Henry J. Fox and Stanley I. Posner on January 17, 1944 and to bring with him his income tax returns and some other things. This explains why Briggs went to their office as was revealed by the surveillance.

Mr. Hennrich said the suit was filed for collection here; that the judgment was on a promissory note which was sued on here by the endorsee. Apparently this was an original suit here. Briggs was going to give a deposition before a notary public at the law office. Fox and Posner are apparently representing the interests who have the judgment against him.

Mr. Hennrich suggested it might be interesting to know what was in the deposition, but I told him we would let the Department subpoena the law office records if they want to. More complete information will be submitted by the Washington Field Office in the form of a brief.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]



JAN 21 1944

Respectfully,

JKM
J. K. Mumford
RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-74466-107
F B I
18 JAN 21 1944

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

JKM:PES
CALL: 11:40 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

ASAC Hennrich called at this time and advised that Briggs is at the Union Station and is buying a railroad ticket. The Agents do not as yet know where the ticket is to. I told him to definitely have at least two Agents go with him, in the meantime I would see if there were any instructions.

I advised Mr. Tamm and he subsequently advised me that Henry Schweinhaut had mentioned the advisability of our securing a warrant and picking him up now but had thereafter stated that no effort should be made to stop him, but he should be continued under surveillance.

I accordingly told Mr. Hennrich and he, at that time, told me that Briggs had just walked up to one of the Agents and remarked he did not know if he were following him, but if he were he might be interested to know that he, Briggs, was going to New York to the Biltmore Hotel to see his lawyer. I told Mr. Hennrich to have the Agents continue with him regardless, and to be extremely cautious to insure he does not get off the train en route, and after they have taken him to the hotel get in touch with the New York Office and turn the surveillance over to them.

I told Mr. Hennrich to call New York and advise that office of the identity of the train, etc. Mr. Hennrich said he would have three Agents start out with the subject so that one can get off at Baltimore to call back to confirm the information they will then have in their possession. He will keep us advised and instruct New York to do the same. Mr. Tamm was advised of this.

Respectfully,

J. E. Mumford

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]



9 JAN 21 1944

RECORDED

62-74466-108		
F	B	I
18 JAN 21 1944		

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

b6
b7C



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

JKM:BK
62-74466
2:25 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ASAC Donegan, New York, telephonically advised that they interviewed Joseph Gilpin Young Sanborn today; it will be recalled he is the person who fingerprinted George N. Briggs in connection with his Civil Service application.

Sanborn said he had no clear recollection of having fingerprinted Briggs, but that if his name is on the card, he undoubtedly was the one who did it. He said he recalled fingerprinting a gentleman strongly resembling a picture of Briggs which he saw in the New York Daily News, but he didn't recall his name or position. *Sanborn's handwriting is very similar to Briggs' handwriting.*

Sanborn said he did not assist in filling out Briggs' Civil Service form, but that he believed a Mr. Abraham Cannon, Room 5127, Department of the Interior Building, may have assisted in the execution of the Civil Service form by Briggs as that was Cannon's procedure. A statement was taken from him, Sanborn, along those lines. Sanborn said he always let the individual fill the card in, that the only thing he would write would be his own name.

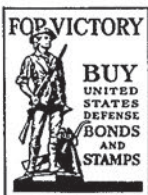
Mr. Donegan said an appropriate letter would be sent to the Bureau confirming the above.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

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RECORDED
&
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9 JAN 21 1944

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18 JAN 21 1944		

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:BK

62-74466

2:15 P.M. 1/20/44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/20/85 BY [redacted]

January 20, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

ASAC Hennrich, WFO, telephonically advised that George Movius, secretary to Senator Nye, has been interviewed pursuant to instructions. Movius wouldn't let the Agents go to the Capitol; he came to the field office for the interview. He advised that Sparks told him that Briggs had advised him the notation on the Hopkins letter which had been erased was written by Umphrey. He said he had questioned Sparks about it and Sparks told him it had read, "Dear Frank, What is the meaning of this, signed Umphrey," and that Sparks told him Briggs had advised him Umphrey had written that himself. Movius further advised that he wrote 60% of the book, that Sparks wrote 40%, and that Briggs wrote 2,000 words. In answer to my inquiry, Mr. Hennrich said no mention was made of any money.

Mr. Hennrich said an appropriate letter would be submitted covering the interview.



RECORDED
INDEXED
17
Respectfully,
J. K. Mumford

46 JAN 21 1944

62-74466-110
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13 JAN 21 1944

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.
January 20, 1944

JAG:CC
62-4792

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/80 BY [redacted]

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b7c

Director, FBI

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

On the afternoon of January 20, 1944, GERALD W. MOVIOUS, Secretary to Hon. GERALD R. NYE, U. S. Senator from North Dakota, voluntarily came to the Washington Field Office and informed Special Agents LOUIS J. RUSSELL and JOSEPH A. GENAU that about three weeks ago he and Mr. C. NELSON SPARKS had lunch at the Carroll Arms Hotel, Washington, D. C., and he desired to learn from Mr. SPARKS at this time the authenticity and originality of the questioned Hopkins letter, and that Mr. SPARKS took from his coat pocket the letter, which he (Mr. SPARKS) stated he had gotten from GEORGE N. BRIGGS and showed it to him, and, after examining it, there appeared to be erasures in the upper right hand corner in penciled handwriting. He was advised by Mr. SPARKS that GEORGE N. BRIGGS had told him (SPARKS) that the erased penciled handwriting was that of Dr. UMPHREY PEE, and Mr. SPARKS was convinced of this fact, and the words erased were as follows:

"Dear Frank: What is the meaning of this?"

Signed - Umphrey"

When questioned as to the identity of the FRANK in the letter, Mr. MOVIOUS stated he believed the person was FRANK PHILLIPS, of the Phillips Petroleum Corporation, but was not sure.

During this interview and without solicitation, Mr. MOVIOUS stated he had rewritten about sixty percent of the book entitled "One Man - Wendell Willkie," from manuscript furnished him by Mr. SPARKS, and that Mr. SPARKS had written about forty percent of the book, and that GEORGE N. BRIGGS had written about two thousand words in the book relative to the incident covering the Stassen-Coles connection. He also stated that Mr. SPARKS informed him that GEORGE N. BRIGGS had given him (SPARKS) a letter from Mrs. ROBERT A. TAFT covering some dinner party given by the OGDEN-REEDS in New York City, which he understands Mrs. TAFT has acknowledged to be genuine, which letter appeared in the book entitled "One Man - Wendell Willkie."

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Director

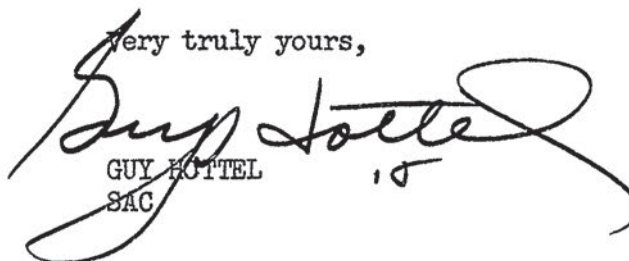
January 20, 1944

Mr. MOVIUS also stated that while the manuscript of the book "One Man - Wendell Willkie" was in preparation, he kept nagging Mr. SPARKS for the original Hopkins letter, and that SPARKS informed him that GEORGE N. BRIGGS had told him (SPARKS) that this document was in the possession of the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. MOVIUS stated he has known Mr. SPARKS for about three years and has a great deal of faith in him, and was convinced in what Mr. SPARKS had told him. He stated he met GEORGE N. BRIGGS through Mr. SPARKS in July, 1943, and had seen Mr. BRIGGS about five times since this meeting.

Mr. MOVIUS advised that his own interest in instant matter at the present time was to protect his professional reputation as a writer, inasmuch as he has written a number of articles for the Saturday Evening Post, and he feels he will no longer be able to contribute to this magazine and other periodicals in the event his connection with the book entitled "One Man - Wendell Willkie" is made public and it is established the questioned letter was not written by HARRY HOPKINS. He stated he had no positive information concerning the letter, only what Mr. SPARKS had told him.

Very truly yours,


GUY HOTTEL
SAC

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

GED:LEB
62-4792

January 20, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

On January 17, 1944, on instructions of Assistant Director D. M. LADD, Special Agents JESSE O. BISHOP and GEORGE E. DAVIS accompanied MR. GEORGE N. BRIGGS to his home at 3034 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia, and at that time secured specimens from a typewriter located in his home.

This typewriter was an Underwood (standard model) bearing serial number 3861780-5. This typewriter, according to MR. BRIGGS, was rented from the Smith Typewriter Exchange, which is located at 433-11th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., telephone RE-8141.

MR. BRIGGS informed Agents BISHOP and DAVIS that this was the only typewriter he had. A careful examination of the premises made available to Agents failed to reveal any other typewriter.

Typewriting specimens taken from the above-described typewriter were taken directly to the Bureau and given to Supervisor GEORGE DINGLE on the night of January 17, 1944.

Very truly yours,

Guy Hotte
GUY HOTTEL
Special Agent in Charge

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b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/30/85 BY [redacted]

*min. to C. [unclear]
1/20/44*

1-1-44

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F B I
JAN 21 1944

46 JAN 21 1944

FBI DALLAS 1-20-44 10-30 AM CWT KB

DIRECTOR, REFER SUPERVISOR MUMFORD.

KEEN. RE TELEPHONIC REQUEST NINETEENTH INSTANT. CHECK OF TEN
HOTELS, DALLAS, FAILS TO REFLECT ANY REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER
TO OCTOBER NINE, INCLUSIVE, UNDER NAME GEORGE N. BRIGGS.

END ACK

11-24 AM OK FBI WA EH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/30/85 BY

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JAN 21 1944

9 JAN 21 1944

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

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FBI ST PAUL 1-20-44 11-15 PM VN

DIRECTOR

KEEN.

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY TO J. K. MUMFORD RE. C. NELSON SPARKS. RECORDS
OF STATE DISTRICT COURT AND FEDERAL COURT RELATIVE TO SUITS AGAINST
GEORGE N. BRIGGS CHECKED FOR MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL. NO RECORDS
OF ANY SUITS FILED MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA. FOLLOWING SUITS FILED
ST. PAUL, RAMSEY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT. SUIT FILED NOVEMBER SIXTEEN,
NINETEEN FORTY, GLOBE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY, PLAINTIFF, VERSUS
GEORGE N. BRIGGS, DEFENDANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTYEIGHT DOLLARS AND
TWENTYEIGHT CENTS ON ACCOUNT OF GOODS SOLD AND DELIVERED BY PLAINTIFF
TO DEFENDANT AT HIS REQUEST BETWEEN NOVEMBER SIXTEEN, NINETEEN FORTY
AND JANUARY THREE, NINETEEN FORTYONE. CASE DISMISSED SEPTEMBER
EIGHT, NINETEEN FORTYONE BY ATTORNEY [RECORDED] & THE PLAINTIFF. SUIT FILED
JULY SEVEN, NINETEEN FORTYTWO, STATE OF MINNESOTA VERSUS GEORGE N.
BRIGGS UNDER THE MINNESOTA EMPLOYMENT AND SECURITY ACT FOR WAGES IN

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44 NOV 9 1964

minutes kept
1/30 JAN 21 1944

cc [unclear] [unclear]

PAGE TWO

THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND FORTYEIGHT CENTS PAYABLE
BY THE DEFENDANT FOR EMPLOYMENT FROM MAY ONE, NINETEEN ~~THIRTY~~ THIRTY
SEVEN TO NOVEMBER ONE, NINETEEN FORTY AT THE RATE OF SIX PER CENT FROM
NOVEMBER ONE, NINETEEN FORTY. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT FILED IN THIS
MATTER. NO DISPOSITION AND MATTER STILL PENDING IN CLERK OF COURTS
DOCKET. NO RECORD FEDERAL COURT, ST. PAUL

RHODES

END

ACK PLEASE

12-15 APM OK FBI WASH DC BAS

V

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

FBI ST PAUL 1-20-44 11-15 PM VN

KEEN.

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY TO J. K. HUMFORD RE. C. NELSON SPARKS. RECORDS
OF STATE DISTRICT COURT AND FEDERAL COURT RELATIVE TO SUITS AGAINST
GEORGE N. BRIGGS CHECKED FOR MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL. NO RECORDS
OF ANY SUITS FILED MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA. FOLLOWING SUITS FILED
ST. PAUL, RAMSEY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT. ① SUIT FILED NOVEMBER SIXTEEN,
NINETEEN FORTY, GLOBE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY, PLAINTIFF, VERSUS
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AND JANUARY THREE, NINETEEN FORTYONE. CASE DISMISSED SEPTEMBER
EIGHT, NINETEEN FORTYONE BY ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF. ② SUIT FILED
JULY SEVEN, NINETEEN FORTYTWO, STATE OF MINNESOTA VERSUS GEORGE N.
BRIGGS UNDER THE MINNESOTA EMPLOYMENT AND SECURITY ACT FOR WAGES IN

one - 1/2 liter each

PAGE TWO

THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND FORTYEIGHT CENTS PAYABLE
BY THE DEFENDANT FOR EMPLOYMENT FROM MAY ONE, NINETEEN ~~TWENTY~~ THIRTY
SEVEN TO NOVEMBER ONE, NINETEEN FORTY AT THE RATE OF SIX PER CENT FROM
NOVEMBER ONE, NINETEEN FORTY. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT FILED IN THIS
MATTER. NO DISPOSITION AND MATTER STILL PENDING IN CLERK OF COURTS
DOCKET. NO RECORD FEDERAL COURT, ST. PAUL

RHODES

END

ACK PLEASE

12-15 APR OK FBI WASH DC BAS

V

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

LHDW:VIM

62-4792

Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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b7C

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY
9-30-85

ATTENTION: MR. J. K. MUMFORD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

In the above-captioned matter, investigation was conducted this date by Special Agent LORENZO H. D. WILDMAN who checked the civil docket records of the Small Claims Court, the Municipal Court and the District Court in the District of Columbia, for the years 1942 and 1943, with the following results:

In the Civil Division of the Municipal Court, under docket number 417,233, a suit was filed by the MIDLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, a corporation, 356 Broadway, St. Paul, Minnesota, plaintiff, against GEORGE N. BRIGGS, care of Department of Interior, 18th and H Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C. A complaint was filed January 4, 1943, consisting of an affidavit of merit dated November 16, 1942, at St. Paul, Minnesota, by L. J. BYERS, Secretary and Treasurer of MIDLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, stating that GEORGE N. BRIGGS was justly indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of \$119.40, with interest from January 1, 1940. The particulars of the demand were "For dues, professional charges and equipment usage owing plaintiff by the defendant." The plaintiff's attorney was WARREN E. MILLER, 1343 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

A summons in this action was served upon the defendant BRIGGS on January 9, 1943, by Deputy U. S. Marshal G. SMITH, demanding BRIGGS' appearance in court on January 18, 1943. An affidavit in compliance with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, dated February 10, 1943, was filed on June 9, 1943, by the plaintiff's attorney, stating that the defendant was not in the military service of the United States but was an assistant to the Secretary of the Interior. A pencilled note on the face of this affidavit states that it is insufficient. The file contains no appearance either by the defendant or by an attorney for him. There has been no judgment entered against BRIGGS in this action because the affidavit of compliance with the Soldiers' Relief Act of 1940 was insufficient and has never been revised. Consequently, there has been no judgment entered in this action.

Under docket number 424,754 in the Civil Division of the Municipal Court, the TIME LOAN COMPANY, a corporation, Guardian Building, 86 East Fourth Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, brought suit against GEORGE N. BRIGGS, employed at the Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Room 5138, Washington, D. C. In this action, a complaint and bill of particulars were filed on

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Director, P & C
C. NELSON SPARKS
January 20, 1944
62-4792

December 2, 1943, for a balance due in the amount of \$250.53, as of July 22, 1943, on a note, plus interest until paid, from July 22, 1943, at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per month and costs. An affidavit of such indebtedness was signed by B. J. LENIHAN, President of the corporation. Enclosed in the file is a note showing loan No. 5155 dated June 20, 1941, at St. Paul, Minnesota, signed by GEORGE BRIGGS for a loan in the amount of \$300.00 granted BRIGGS by the TIME LOAN COMPANY and secured by a second mortgage on a 1941 Chrysler, a first mortgage on a 1936 Pontiac and signed by a guarantor named "A. S. MELIN." The note specified that the \$300.00 was to be paid in twenty equal instalments of \$18.98 each, first instalment due on July 15, 1941, and others due on the fifteenth of each month thereafter until the final instalment on February 15, 1943, including interest on the unpaid balance at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per month if the unpaid balance was \$150.00 or less, and 2 per cent per month on any balance in excess of \$150.00.

The plaintiff's attorney in this action was MILTON DUNN, Colorado Building, 14th and G Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C., telephone NA 6277.

The summons in this action was served on the defendant on December 11, 1943, by Deputy U. S. Marshal G. F. KELLER, demanding defendant's appearance in court on December 16, 1943.

The file contained an affidavit dated December 20, 1943, by BETTY ANN KUHN filed December 22, 1943, in compliance with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940.

The file revealed no appearance by the defendant or an attorney in his behalf and, accordingly, on December 22, 1943, a judgment by default was entered for the plaintiff for the sum of \$250.53 with interest at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per month from July 22, 1943, to date and interest at 6 per cent per annum from date plus costs. This judgment was rendered by Judge CLAGETT. To date, there has been no attempt to levy execution on this judgment.

Under docket number 19,800 of the Civil Division of the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, an action was started by EDWIN L. BINGHAM, JR., against GEORGE N. BRIGGS. The attorney for the plaintiff is HENRY J. FOX, 213 Standard Oil Building, Washington, D. C. The complainant was an endorsee on a promissory note. A review of the papers filed in this action revealed that the complaint was filed on May 22, 1943, wherein it was stated that the defendant on October 12, 1939, executed and delivered to EDWIN S.

Director, P & C
C. NELSON SPARKS
January 20, 1944
62-4792

Edwin S.

~~X~~ BINSWANGER, also known as EDWIN S. ~~X~~ BINGHAM, a promissory note, that defendant made several payments totalling \$1,000 on said note, the last payment having been made on December 10, 1940, that on October 15, 1941, EDWIN S. BINGHAM endorsed the note over to EDWIN S. BINGHAM, JR., the plaintiff, whereupon judgment was demanded for \$6,315.00 with interest, costs and reasonable attorneys' fee less the \$1,000.00 already paid on the note. The note was attached as an exhibit. It is dated October 12, 1939, at St. Paul, Minnesota, and reads as follows:

"I promise to pay to the order of EDWIN S. BINSWANGER, of St. Paul, Minnesota, at the office of ZENAS H. THOMAS, 1015 Pioneer Building, St. Paul, Minnesota, the sum of \$6,315.00 as follows: \$300.00 on November 20, 1939, and the balance in monthly instalments of \$100.00 each, the first due on January 1, 1940, and on the first of each month thereafter until paid. To bear interest at 6 per cent per annum payable on the 12th of October of each year commencing October 12, 1940."

The address of EDWIN S. BINGHAM, JR., plaintiff in instant action, is shown as 5225 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

On June 15, 1943, the defendant BRIGGS and plaintiff's attorney entered a stipulation for settlement of the claim for \$3,000.00, to be paid by the defendant to FOX, plaintiff's attorney, at 213 Standard Oil Building, Washington, D. C., on August 1, 1943, and in the event of a default, there was an agreement to have judgment entered forthwith against the defendant. The defendant defaulted under this agreement and did not answer the complaint, whereupon a judgment rendered by Judge F. DICKINSON LETTS was filed on October 25, 1943, in favor of the plaintiff, in the amount of \$6,635.56, which sum represents the unpaid balance on the principal of a note in the amount of \$5,315.00, and the unpaid balance on said note from October 12, 1939, to October 21, 1943, in the amount of \$1,320.56, besides attorneys' fees for \$650.00 and costs.

On November 26, 1943, an attachment was served by Deputy U. S. Marshal EDWARD J. McCLAY on HAROLD L. ~~X~~ ICKES as garnishee for \$7,285.56 with interest from October 25, 1943.

Director, P & C
C. NELSON SPARKS
January 20, 1944
62-4792

On November 29, 1943, ^{Mr} AICKES returned an answer to interrogatories, stating that he was not at the time of service of the return or at any time since, indebted to the defendant and that he did not have in his possession or in his charge any goods, chattels or credits of the defendant.

In supplementary proceedings to collect the judgment, a subpoena duces tecum was served on BRIGGS on December 17, 1943, directing BRIGGS to appear before FREDERICK STEINKO, a notary public, at Room 213 Standard Oil Building, 261 Constitution Avenue, and produce all his books, papers, records and documents for the year prior to December 14, 1943.

On December 23, 1943, a stipulation was entered between the attorney for the plaintiff and the attorneys for the defendant to continue this examination of the defendant in supplementary proceedings to January 17, 1944. The names of the defendant's attorneys are RICHARD W. GALIHER and TOM J. McGRATH.

Very truly yours,


GUY HOTTEL
SAC



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:PES

Call: 1:25 p.m.

January 20, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____ b6
Mr. Harbo _____ b7C
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____ b7D
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

ASAC Donegan called and advised that Agents Buckley and Coyle
had interviewed [redacted]

The following results of this interview were furnished by
Agent Coyle:

[redacted] said early in [redacted] he was introduced to [redacted] b7D
friend and at that time [redacted] discussed the [redacted]
He said he became friendly with [redacted] inasmuch as [redacted]
[redacted] they had not known each
other before [redacted] but [redacted] said he knew of [redacted]
etc. He said [redacted] when he discussed [redacted] mentioned various documents and
the letter in question, but in view of his background [redacted] paid little or no
attention to these explanations, but trusted him and believed in his integrity.

[redacted] said an attorney by the name of [redacted]
[redacted] New York City, [redacted] b7D
[redacted] said that was more or less all he was interested
in. He received [redacted] in New York City.

The Agents asked [redacted] b7D
[redacted] He said [redacted] advised he was [redacted]

[redacted] could
not give any details about where these individuals met or just what time [redacted]
[redacted] He said he paid little or no attention to details, but just took
it at face value. [redacted] had in mind only to be [redacted]
[redacted] He said [redacted] evidently then returned to Washington [redacted]

7 INDEXED

162-74466-116

b7D



he said he did not have much further conversation concerning [redacted] After that
He said [redacted] told him [redacted]

46 JAN 27 1944

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44 NOV 9 1964

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Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

-2-

Upon being questioned concerning the [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]
When asked what other people, [redacted] said he did not pay any attention and he never asked them.

[redacted] said there was [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] said it was caused by [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] said he himself never had any contact with [redacted] but that he knew of him. He said [redacted]

[redacted] said he only received [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] pointed out very forcefully that he never knew [redacted] until
He also said the WPB investigators had been to see him already.

Agent Coyle advised the results of the interview will be submitted in writing to the Bureau as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
J. R. Mumford

Handwritten: Excluded



GCB:RMB

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____ b6
Mr. Tracy _____ b7C
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: ALLEGED HARRY HOPKINS LETTER TO
DOCTOR UMPHREY LEE DATED AUGUST 17, 1943

Reference is made to the memorandum to the Director from Mr. Tom C. Clark, dated January 19, 1944, requesting certain additional information, part of which was to be obtained from the Department of Interior records and personnel. The results of the inquiries which were made at the Department of Interior by the writer and Special Agent Sidney Isaacs are set out below under sections numbered similarly to the sections in the reference memorandum wherein the requests were made.

I. In the reference memorandum it was stated that the personnel records should be checked and reviewed and particular emphasis should be put on the statements made by references given by Briggs. A review of the personnel file of George N. Briggs reflects that his application for a position was dated August 22, 1941. At that time he was living at 2234 Fairmount Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota. He stated he was born at Dixon, Illinois, May 6, 1886, and his legal residence is Minnesota; that he lived in Minnesota from April, 1916, to August, 1941. He stated he had never before been employed by the U. S. Government had no relatives in the Government. He stated he had never been arrested for any crime or misdemeanor. He gave as references Charles J. Moos, Vice President, Joyce Insurance Company, St. Paul; Frank Gannett, Publisher, Times Union, Rochester, New York; Elmer E. Blu, General Counsel, Oliver Mining Company, 700 Wolvin Building, Duluth, Minnesota; C. L. Ames, Treasurer, West Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minnesota; V. J. Michaelson, Lawyer, 300 Minnesota Building, St. Paul, Minnesota. His application contained a statement of what Briggs was particularly well qualified for which stated "editorial writing, speech writing, analytical studies, research, legislative and governmental studies." Under experience he listed "for 17 years my experience was confined exclusively to newspaper offices where I ran the gamut of jobs -- rewrite man, copy reader, desk man, general assignment reporter, special writer, Sunday feature writer, editorial and political writer. During that time I became adept at makeup and layout.

"The following 18 years were spent in building a legislative bureau that served its clients the year round and made available to them instant information concerning past or coming legislation. I had for clients such representative firms as General Mills, Great Northern Railway, U. S. Steel Corporation, Cream of Wheat Corporation; the leading banks, insurance offices, legal firms, etc.



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44 NOV 9 1964

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16 JAN 27 1944
min 6 1/2

50

"During that time I conducted campaigns for or against issues -- charter amendments etc. -- wrote speeches, prepared adversiting copy, issued legal bulletins and booklets, ect.

"I recently disposed of the bureau that I might be free to move East."

On August 25, 1941, Briggs was offered an appointment as an Information Specialist at \$4600 per annum in the office of the Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense. His duties as set out in the job specifications were to be "under general supervision with unusual latitude for independent work, to serve as a consultant to the Director of Information in connection with the distribution of information with reference to the activities of the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator and the roll of petroleum and its products in the national defense program; to write and edit articles and news releases for publication in journals, magazines, and newspapers; to write and edit pamphlets and similar informational material and to perform such other duties as may be required."

The file reflects that Briggs entered on duty as of August 27, 1941, took the oath of office on August 29. On September 3, 1941, the Harrington Hotel wrote to the Department of Interior and complained that Briggs had cashed three checks which had been returned marked "account garnished". He was reprimanded for this by the Department of Interior and explained that his bank account in Saint Paul had been sufficient to handle these checks but that it had been tied up unexpectedly in "a piece of business litigation over which I had no control." On November 24, 1941, letters were addressed to four references given by Briggs, namely V. J. Michaelson, Elmer F. Blu, C. I. Ames, and Charles J. Moos, requesting information about Briggs. The file did not reflect any correspondence with Frank Gannett about this matter.

As of December 1, 1941, Blu acknowledged receipt of the letter on stationery of the Oliver Iron Mining Company of Duluth as follows: "This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 24, 1941, relative to the above matter.

"I have known Mr. George N. Briggs, formerly of St. Paul, Minnesota, for at least 25 years, and during all that time he was engaged in newspaper publicity work involving the dissemination of information relating to political and other matters.

"Mr. Briggs is thoroughly dependable, possesses excellent character and stands well throughout the State of Minnesota, and I consider that he has,

to a very high degree, the qualities you specify as essential to the performance of his duties in the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense."

On December 11, 1941, Mr. Ames replied on his own stationery as follows: "Your letter of the 24th inquiring about George N. Briggs recently appointed to a position in the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense was received during my absence in the East, and I have not had an earlier opportunity to reply to it. It was addressed to me as Treasurer of the West Publishing Company but I am replying to it on my own letterhead because my true knowledge of Mr. Briggs' work was derived in other connections than those of company business."

"In my opinion, Mr. Briggs is a natural-born propagandist writer with genuine natural gifts for that kind of work, and he has developed them in many fields of journalistic and political writing. I do not use the word propagandist in a derogatory or unpleasant sense. I know I have met very few people who seem to me to possess a keener sense of what will or will not appeal to the public mind, especially in the political field, or who can do more effective political writing."

"Naturally he has the 'defects of his virtues' and could not possibly be classed as a research man in the proper sense of that terms. I have no doubt that you will find that where Mr. Briggs is provided with sound and accurate information, he can do an extremely good job of writing up and editing such material for publication."

No other replies to the letters to Briggs' references appear in the file. On January 19, 1942, a notation appeared in the file to the effect that Secretary Ickes had personally selected Mr. Briggs as his assistant to succeed Mr. Milburn P. Akers who had resigned. On February 1, 1942, Briggs' salary was raised to \$4800, and on June 1, 1942, to CAF 13, \$5600. Under his new job classification as Assistant to the Secretary, the following is stated; "Under very general supervision to perform a variety of special and/or confidential assignments for the Secretary of the Interior, involving the making of appropriate contacts with the public, members of Congress, officials of other Government departments and agencies, and preparing recommendations to the Secretary relative to these assignments. To personally perform special research work and original writing in connection with the preparation of the Secretary's major speeches, manuscripts etc. and to make an editorial review of important material prepared for the Secretary by the various bureaus of the Department. This review is not only for style and composition but includes the responsibility for reporting accuracy and relevancy of statements, as well as conformance to policy and significance of presentation."

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

Page 4

"To accompany the Secretary on field trips and rendering general assistance as required."

The file reflects that on August 24, 1942, Briggs' address and telephone number were changed to 226 West Broad Street, Falls Church, Virginia, telephone 1961W. An undated notation reflects that his address was again changed to 3034 Buchanan, Arlington, Virginia.

II. Mr. Clark's memorandum requested that the leave record of Mr. Briggs be checked, listing all leave taken subsequent to August 1, 1943. A review of Briggs' leave record indicated that he has taken no leave since June 21, 1943. This was previously reported in my memorandum to you dated January 17, 1944.

V. Mr. Clark's memorandum requested that

b7D

b7D

VIII. Mr. Clark's memorandum under Section VIII desired that the files of the Department of Interior should be examined to ascertain if Briggs had done any work or had written any letters between the dates of September 27, and October 9, 1943. It was found that the Department of Interior files were not set up so as to determine if Briggs had written any letters during the dates set out; however, by spot checking the Department of Interior General Files and checking the records of Miss Ellen Downs, Receptionist and Secretary to Mr. Ickes, the following was learned:

* There were other calls - classified as L. P. but they were to Briggs home in Va. + Md. + the Secy's. home in Md.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Saw Secretary Ickes</u>	<u>Reviewed Letters for Secretary Ickes and Initialed Same</u>
9-27-43	Twice	Yes
9-28-43	Once	Yes
9-29-43	Twice	Yes
9-30-43	No	Yes
10-1-43	Once	Yes
10-2-43 (Sat.)	No	No
10-3-43 (Sun.)	No	No
10-4-43	No	Yes
10-5-43	No	Yes
10-6-43	No	Yes
10-7-43	Once	Yes
10-8-43	Once	Yes
10-9-43	No	Yes

*alleged
2 week period*

X. In Section X of Mr. Clark's memorandum, he requested that the records of the typewriters used by Mr. Briggs be checked and that samples be taken on all typewriters used in his office for the past four months. With reference to the last part of this request, you will recall that samples of the typewriters have been taken and have been identified as being the machines on which the questioned letters were written. A check of the inventory of Briggs' office as of January 1, 1943, indicated that there were charged to room 5140 two Underwood typewriters bearing serial numbers 5229119 and 4282905 and one Royal typewriter, serial number 2411322. You will recall that by memoranda dated January 17, and January 19, 1944, I have reported that the Underwood typewriter number 4282905 was the machine in Briggs' private office and the Underwood typewriter number 5229119 was the machine in the Secretary's office which adjoined Briggs'. There is no record in the Department files indicating that there has been any change made in the machines since January 1, 1943. The Royal typewriter number 2411322 was found to have been in Briggs' office temporarily at the time of the inventory on January 1, 1943, and I am informed by Miss Downs, Receptionist and Secretary to Secretary Ickes, that this machine is no longer there but has been removed to its original place.

Under Section III of the section in Mr. Clark's memorandum entitled "Miscellaneous Investigation", he sets out that according to ~~Briggs~~^{Shanks}, Secretary Ickes' Secretary, Miss Connolly, was alleged to have given the famous Hopkins' letter to Briggs from the safe or private papers of Secretary Ickes. I determined that Miss May B. Conley is the Confidential Secretary to Mr. Ickes and has been with him since approximately 1911. I interviewed Miss Conley and learned from her that she has never taken any paper from Mr. Ickes' safe or private papers and given it to Briggs. She stated that she had never seen the Hopkins' letter before seeing a copy of it printed in the newspaper. She has no access to Mr. Ickes' safe unless he is present and would under no circumstances give private papers from Mr. Ickes' file or safe to anyone without Mr. Ickes' personal orders. She says that Mr. Ickes never discussed the question of the Hopkins' letter with her and therefore could never have given her authority to have given Briggs any of these papers.

Miss Ellen Downs, Receptionist and Secretary to Mr. Ickes, also denied giving any such letter or any letter to Mr. Briggs.

Respectfully,


G. C. Burton

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



CAA:CHM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E.A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

Re: George N. Briggs; Harry L. Hopkins,
Victim - Misc. (Possible Violation
of District of Columbia Statutes
Prohibiting Forging and Uttering of
Documents to the Injury of Another)

A comparison was made between the four specimens of paper bearing the White House letterhead and the questioned letter. It was concluded that the questioned letter was not part of any of the supplies from which any of the known specimens were secured. These are labeled:

1. Present Supply
2. June 1943
3. May 1943
4. December 1943

In every instance the questioned specimen is a thicker paper and in every instance the embossed letterhead is not as long. If there is any other place where a supply of this kind is kept, specimens of this should be submitted.

It will be remembered that the questioned letter was previously compared with the letter of Mr. Hopkins dated September 23, 1942 which is in the Bureau Files, [redacted] This stationery is also different as was previously reported.

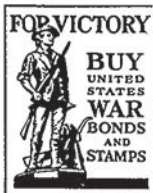
b7E

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/05 BY [redacted]

Respectfully,

C. A. Appel

b6
b7C



9 JAN 21 1944

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-7446-118
F B I
13 JAN 21 1944

memo to per ladd
1/20/44
Samples secured
from Briggs office
& 1/20/44
matched

See Serial
106



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM LABORATORY REPORT

RE: Alleged Forgery
Harry Hopkins Letter

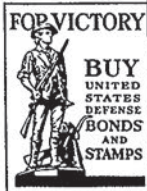
Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Acers.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Hendon.....
Mr. Mumford.....
Mr. Sparks.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

b6
b7C

A summary of the Laboratory findings to date during the examination of the so-called "Briggs" sample specimens follows. All of the Briggs material has not finally been studied and the examination on these is continuing.

1. The forged Harry Hopkins letter of August 17, 1943, is found to have been written on an Underwood typewriter, serial #M-5221919-11, which is reported to be in the outer office or reception room of George Briggs.
2. Several of the typewritten letters signed "George Briggs" and which were in the file of twenty-two miscellaneous pieces of mail, most of which were addressed to Sparks, have been found to have been written on an Underwood typewriter, serial #4282905-11, which is reported to be in the main office of Mr. George Briggs. Also, several of the original drafts of telegrams have been found to have been prepared on this typewriter. The study of the remainder of these letters and original telegram drafts is continuing, and final conclusions have not been reached because additional known specimens from the typewriter in question are being obtained prepared in several forms more comparable to the letters and telegrams.
3. Mr. George Briggs was found to have written the signature and, in some instances, the handwriting appearing on the correspondence listed below. This conclusion is based upon a study of the samples of handwriting furnished by Mr. Briggs as his writing and signature.

b3



INDEXED
105

62-74466-119
F B I
35 JAN 20 1944

Memo Lab Report



b3

ALSO:

Words in the address of telegram of May 20 addressed to P. W. ~~Fahey~~¹¹
beginning "Please advise----"

Words "Room 5138" on draft of telegram of October 2 addressed to
Briggs at Scranton, Pennsylvania, beginning "Keep a stiff---!"

Words "George N. Briggs, Room 5138" on draft of telegram of July 23
addressed to S. K. ~~Skellet~~, reading "Hold everything, please."

b3



E. P. G. [Signature]

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



CAA:CHM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

Re: George N. Briggs; Harry L. Hopkins,
Victim - Misc. (Possible Violation of
District of Columbia Statutes Prohib-
iting Forging and Uttering of Documents
to the Injury of Another)

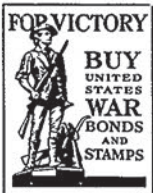
Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E.A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahn _____
Miss Gandy _____ b3

Additional specimens of handlettering are needed although the comparison of the handlettering with handletterings on the telegrams and other specimens is continuing. A further report will be made as to this.

Respectfully,

C. A. Appel

ADDENDUM: (1/18/44 egk) The additional specimens requested in his last paragraph pertain to his needs for reaching conclusions on the other items such as the telegrams, etc..



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/88 BY [redacted]

EPC

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
105

162-74466-120
F B I
35 JAN 20 1944

b6
b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM LABORATORY REPORT

Re: Alleged Forgery
Harry Hopkins Letter

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	5734
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Acers	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Mumford	.....
Mr. Starke	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

A comparison of handlettering appearing on the Civil Service finger-
print card of George N. Briggs

in the conclusion that these writings were made by the same individual.
results

b3

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]



A. Clark
Clark
11/19/44
W. J. M.

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

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62-74466-121

35 JAN 20 1944

Q. J. M.

b6
b7C

A. Nelson - Thanks

JKM:VK
tr. 1/19/44

RECORDED

62-74466-121

60X
7018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

In connection with the C. Nelson Sparks matter, I thought you would be interested in the attached Memorandum Laboratory Report which sets out the conclusion that the handprinting in the address on the envelope postmarked December 20, 1943, in which Mr. Sparks testified he received the letter purportedly sent by Mr. Harry Hopkins to Dr. Humphrey Lee, was made by a person identical with the individual who wrote the handprinting on the Civil Service fingerprint card of George N. Briggs.

We are at the present time attempting to locate a witness competent to identify the individual who executed the handprinting on the instant fingerprint card.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

RECEIVED
JAN 19

b6
b7C

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn
Nease
Gandy

1944

EPC:EGK

January 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM LABORATORY REPORT

Re: Alleged Forgery
Harry Hopkins Letter

A comparison of handwriting concerning on the Civil Service Agency
print card of George H. Briggs [redacted]

b3

[redacted] results
in the conclusion that these writings were made by the same individual.

(The above is a summary by EPC of the examiner's findings.)

W7.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

R
2018

January 19, 1944

4:38PM

JEH:MDH

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. TAMM
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS

Secretary Ickes called [redacted] and that Briggs had called twice today trying to get in touch with him. I told Ickes I talked with Abe Fortas this noon and received Ickes message that Briggs told the operator there were numerous angles in this case with which the Secretary was unfamiliar. Ickes asked again for my opinion regarding his seeing Briggs and I told him I was still of the belief he should not see him and that he would place himself open to criticism [redacted]

b3

b3

b3

The Secretary stated he would not see Briggs.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

RECORDED

INDEXED

SENT FROM D. C.

TIME 6:20 PM

DATE 1-19-44

FILE

62-74466-122
F B I
JAN 21 1944

Tolson
A. Tamm
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Rm.
Holloman
Gandy

579

EC-1

NELSON A. SPARKS

19
As one, who personally run Sparks out of Roma Park, while he was running for another try at Mayorship, I have a report to make. He was with Wm. DeLe and Fred Gareri, meeting family after family, as we held a "surprise Schroy" talk - to several thousands. [redacted] talk lasted 1 hour, at b7D Sparks on basis of cutting laborer's pay in the depression. I learned that he literally ran from park and was defeated in primary by 325 votes. I was told in that campaign - Sparks led the veterans to boost him in past, as a little Hitler - promising and promising. No effort to keep them (promises). Told [redacted] and this made him an invincible talk clever, witty and a go-getter. Whether the story of [redacted] is true, I couldn't say -- nor can I recall the source -- but it was "campaign rumor" at the time.

Can you or will you trace it. His appearance can show it to trained physicians who study on that type of depravity, and the exposure of Sparks can be "revealing and shocking" enough. Is this too late? Forgot it several times - intending to reveal it sooner. Fascist Ray Fantin was his backer and several score of leading Italian fascist minded. "Italian Army" group - ex-combattenti was for Sparks in 1935(???). This is group I helped to run out of business.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

50 JAN 30 1944

62-74466-
259724
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 7 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



DML:PC

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 8, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: NELSON SPARKS

I called SAC Hennrich of the Washington Field Office with reference to the above; advised that the Bureau is in receipt of information to the effect that the above may be in Washington at the Statler Hotel and that he may contact an individual by the name of Briggs in Secretary Ickes Office. I told Hennrich that it is desired that he make a very discreet check to see if Sparks is registered at the Statler; that a microphone surveillance be installed in his room only if it could be done without any embarrassment to the Bureau and also keep a loose physical surveillance on Sparks to see if he contacts Briggs or if Briggs contacts him.

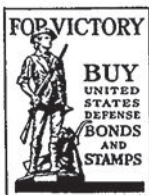
The delicate nature of this matter was pointed out to Hennrich and he stated that every precaution would be taken in order not to be discovered.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/88 BY



62-74466-124
F B I
21 JAN 10 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 8, 1944

DML:PC

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ASAC Hennrich of the Washington Field Office called with reference to my previous call to him concerning the above and advised that he is not registered at the Statler Hotel nor is he registered at any of the other larger hotels in Washington.

Hennrich stated that he has placed a stop at the Statler to be notified if Sparks does come in and they are also checking the newspapers to see if there will be anything in them concerning Sparks.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

62-74466-125
F B I
21 JAN 10 1944



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
St. Paul, Minnesota
January 18th, 1944

DIRECTOR, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

AIRMAIL
SPECIAL

ADDITIONAL

b6
b7C

Re: GEORGE N. BRIGGS
FRANK MC ALLISTER (Monte Carlo)
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

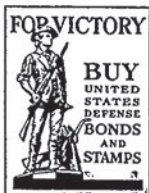
Reference is made to the telephone conversation from Mr. J. K. Mumford of the Bureau to this office on January 18, 1944, wherein it was pointed out that certain information concerning GEORGE N. BRIGGS and his insurance policies with the Northwestern Mutual Insurance Company at St. Paul, be secured. General background information on FRANK MC ALLISTER of St. Paul was also requested.

GEORGE N. BRIGGS

Mr. J.A. DUMEZ, Cashier and Office Manager for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee, with offices at 400 Guardian Building, St. Paul, from his records advised that Mr. BRIGGS has two policies with this company, one for \$15,000 and one for \$5,000; that against these policies Mr. BRIGGS has limit loans amounting to \$1,865.39 against the \$15,000 policy, and there are also premium loans of \$1,152.66 against the \$15,000 policy and premium loans in the sum of approximately \$400 against the \$5,000 policy. He has automatic premium loans to the limit of both policies and there is presently a premium of \$200 now due.

At the time Mr. BRIGGS took these policies he claimed he had only \$10,000 insurance in the Sun Life of Canada. This has never been verified, and any additional record as to additional policies other than the Sun Life would of necessity have to be secured from the home office of the Northwestern Mutual at Milwaukee.

The file further discloses that on November 12, 1943, Mr. BRIGGS forwarded by check the sum of \$219.40 toward premiums due on these policies. Mr. DUMEZ advised that there has been voluminous correspondence with Briggs relative to the payments of his premiums and that for some reason or another he has never been able to make the premiums without some difficulty on his checks. There was a letter in the file dated November 16th of the letterhead of the U. S. Department of Interior at Washington, D. C., to Mr. P. W. FAHEY, formerly General Agent for the Northwestern Mutual at St Paul and now retired. This letter advised that a deposit made by BRIGGS in a bank in Akron had been returned to him as NSF, and that for this reason his, BRIGGS', check was apparently also marked NSF. There was also another letter in the



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JAN 22 1944

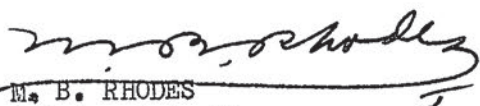
file dated May 16th with reference to a check submitted on one of his policies which had apparently been NSF.

On November 18, 1943, the company received a telegram from GEORGE N. BRIGGS at Washington, D. C., reading as follows: "Thanks for your assurance. Entanglement here now straight. Redeposit check." This telegram was in response to correspondence from the company indicating a NSF check or the failure of BRIGGS to submit premium payment.

FRANK MC ALLISTER.

Mr. MC ALLISTER is about 55 years of age, was admitted to the practice of law in Minnesota in 1920, and was formerly a telegraph operator for the Great Northern RR. He offices at 1100 Minnesota Building, and resides at 1781 Highland Parkway. He has recently been specializing in wage and hour cases and has for a number of years maintained offices in both Chicago and St. Paul. He was formerly associated with THOMAS SULLIVAN, a well-known and somewhat notorious lawyer in St. Paul who was connected with the Langer case in North Dakota, and was at one time an attorney for the Sanitary Board under the THOMPSON regime in Chicago. MC ALLISTER ran for Mayor of St. Paul about 1928 on the Farmer-Labor ticket. He is not considered an astute lawyer, has a reputation of being "flannel mouthed" and his general reputation is that he is mediocre but honest. It is understood that he was a graduate of the night law school, St. Paul College of Law. His credit rating is prompt.

Very truly yours,


M. B. RHODES

Special Agent in Charge

ENN:DW

JKM:VK
tr. 1/19/44

MR. HENRY A. SCHWEINHART
Special Assistant to the Attorney General
JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
C. NELSON SPARKS

Transmitted herewith are photostatic copies of material on C. Nelson Sparks which was made available to me by Mr. Hopkins' office. I have returned the originals to him.

You will note that the enclosures have to do with a suit instituted by Mr. Sparks in the Supreme Court, New York County, New York, against The Nation magazine, its editors and Benjamin Stolberg, based on the February 20, 1937, issue, and a speech made by Sparks, and deal primarily with the personal background of Mr. Sparks.

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-7446-127
F B I
18 JAN 22 1944

RECEIVED READING ROOM
JAN 19 3 19 PM '44
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 12
JAN 19 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

JAN 22 1944

JKM:VK
tr. 1/19/44

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM C. CLARK

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

C. NELSON SPARKS

Transmitted herewith is a copy of a memorandum and its enclosure I have sent to the Attorney General. You will note it has to do with the identification of the handprinting on the envelope postmarked December 20, 1943, submitted by Mr. Sparks with handprinting appearing on the Civil Service fingerprint card of George N. Briggs.

Enclosure *jo*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 8

JAN 19 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-74466-728

JAN 20 1944
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 19 3 50 PM '44
RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

E/A

L.H.

JKM:VK
tr. 1/19/44

MR. HENRY A. SCHWEINHART
Special Assistant to the Attorney General
JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
C. NELSON SPARKS

Transmitted herewith is a copy of a memorandum and its enclosure I have sent to the Attorney General. You will note it has to do with the identification of the handprinting on the envelope postmarked December 20, 1943, submitted by Mr. Sparks, with handprinting appearing on the Civil Service fingerprint card of George N. Briggs.

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

RECORDED & INDEXED

RECEIVED
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DEPT OF JUSTICE

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18 JAN 22 1944	

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
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Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 8
★ JAN 18 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 22 1944

Handwritten signatures and initials: EAT, Dab, JKM

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

JKM:PES
Call: 9:15 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____ b7D

At the above-stated time SA J. F. Durkin of the Richmond Field Division, who is Resident Agent at Alexandria, Virginia, called and submitted the following information in connection with the check of [redacted] This is based on item five of Department memorandum of January 19, 1944. I had called ASAC Hennrich to handle this lead and he subsequently advised me that the records would be in Virginia, inasmuch as Briggs now resides there. He was therefore instructed to communicate the Bureau's desire to the Richmond Office.

Agent Durkin advised that [redacted] b7D
the Washington Office has [redacted] SA Bob Newby of [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

b7D
WFO
WFO
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b7C

Agent Durkin advised that Agent Newby of the Washington Field Office is [redacted] in connection with several others in instant case and will report direct to the Bureau. He said no further investigation is being conducted by the Richmond Office, but that if the Bureau desires to contact him he can be reached at Alexandria 3965.



Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Washington Field Division, 1435-37 K Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

RFG:IS
62-4792

January 20, 1944

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY

CH 11-14-85

b6
b7C

Director, FBI

* - Photos shown to Briggs
✓ - Letter sent by Sparks

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your request, there is hereinafter set out.

b7D

b7D



RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 22 1944

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18	JAN 22 1944	

3

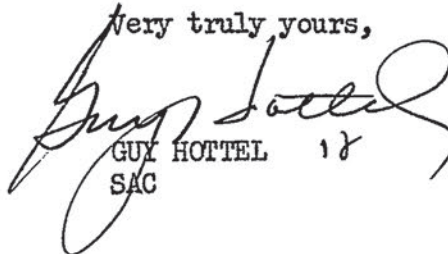
RFG:IS
1/20/44
62-4792
DIRECTOR
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

[REDACTED] will be obtained for the
Bureau immediately, if and when located.

b7D

If there is further information you desire in regard to the above or other messages in connection with this case, please advise, and the matter will continue to receive our immediate attention.

Very truly yours,


GUY HOTTEL 18
SAC



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

JKM:PES

Call: 7:30 p.m.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____ b6
Mr. Tracy _____ b7C
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

At the above-stated time SA E. Emrich of the New York Office called to advise that George N. Briggs arrived in New York City on the Pennsylvania Railroad about 4:45 p.m., the train being a half hour late. He went to the Biltmore Hotel and went to room 907 without checking in. This room is registered to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sullivan of Chicago, Illinois, no address being given.

Mr. Emrich said that about 6:20 p.m. a phone call went to that room from an unknown individual, and during the conversation the party talking in the room on the phone mentioned that "Mr. Briggs is here now", indicating someone was inquiring about him. They all went to dinner about 7:15 p.m. at Stauffers Restaurant, near 42nd and Lexington. The New York Office is having a quick check made of his brief case to see what he has with him.

9:00 p.m.

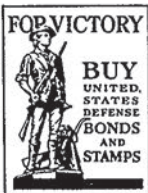
Mr. Emrich subsequently advised that upon examination of the brief case the only things found were personal belongings, such as pajamas, toilet articles, etc.

Mr. Emrich said there was a call received in the room at 6:00 p.m. (before they went to dinner) probably from Briggs' mother, who apparently lives in New York. He told her he had an appointment at the Biltmore Hotel tomorrow, the 21st, at 1:30 p.m. with his attorney, who is not known. While they were in the room Mr. Sullivan called an unidentified man at the Del Monico Hotel, the room number ending in a "23", the other numbers not being known, but a check is being made to see if this can be determined. Apparently a Mr. Muller answered and said that the party he was calling for was not in.

Mr. Emrich said Mr. Sullivan registered at the hotel yesterday at 8:09 p.m., giving the address 4656 Beacon Street, Chicago, Illinois. None of the individuals have returned to the hotel from dinner and a thorough and discreet surveillance is being continued.

RECORDED & INDEXED

9:20 a.m. 1/21/44



Mr. Emrich further advised in regard to the surveillance of Briggs, as follows:

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18 JAN 22 1944	

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Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

-2-

At 8:40 p.m. they returned to the hotel from dinner and Sullivan went to the desk with Briggs and asked for a reservation for G. Briggs, 4334 Hawthorne Street, Washington, D. C. Subsequent to that the assistant manager advised that some party in Lansing, Michigan, had been trying to get in touch with Sullivan.

At 9:05 Sullivan called New York number Eldorado 5-7924, which is listed to a Bridge and Backgammon Club at 37 West 51st Street, New York City. He asked if Mr. Briggs were there and the party who answered said he was expected. *given m 702*

At 9:10 p.m. Sullivan called room 2701 in the Hotel Del Monico and received no answer. It was ascertained that room 2701 is occupied by Mr. J. Cook, 67 W Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois, and a Mr. Joseph I. Bugler, who gave no address when he registered. These individuals entered the hotel and registered on January 2, 1944, intending to remain three days and are still there.

A check was also made at 37 West 51st Street and found on the register there that in room 201 there is listed an Ed Acklund and a Glenn W. Briggs (probably George Briggs' brother). The bill also showed in that room a party by the name of Mason.

At 9:45 p.m. Sullivan again called the Bridge and Backgammon Club but Mr. Briggs (Glenn) was not there and it was not known whether he would return or not.

At 9:50 p.m. Sullivan attempted to contact a Mr. Reidrons, Lansing, Michigan, the call originally being placed the previous night, without any success. He was advised that Reidrons would not be in until after 11:00 p.m.

Immediately thereafter Sullivan called room 2701 in the Del Monico Hotel and advised the party to whom he talked that he would ^{be} there in a half hour. At 10:40 p.m. Sullivan and Briggs left the Biltmore.

Sullivan returned to the Biltmore Hotel around 11:20 p.m. and ^{at} that time a call was coming through from a Chris Reidrons, Lansing, Michigan, phone 2-2114. Sullivan asked this individual what delayed him and the man said he had been to a show, etc. Sullivan said he had received the telegram from Reidrons and the latter said he had taken care of the matter in St. Paul. Mr. Emrich was of the opinion that Reidrons has something to do with horses inasmuch as a lot of the conversation was concerning horses. They also spoke about a note which is to be signed in St. Paul by Reidrons and to be indorsed by Sullivan. During the conversation Sullivan mentioned he was leaving New York on Saturday and would go directly to St. Paul, being there on Monday.

Going back to the time when Sullivan and Briggs left the Biltmore at 10:40 p.m., Mr. Emrich advised that they took a cab and the former got out at the Del Monico Hotel. Briggs, however, went to Schrafts Restaurant at 82nd and Broadway. He waited there about fifteen minutes, when he was met by two middle aged women, one of whom embraced Briggs. Mr. Emrich said this could have been the subject's mother, but I suggested that inasmuch as Briggs is about 56 years of age and this woman is middle aged this would not seem probable.

At 12:25 p.m. these individuals left Schrafts and took a cab to Connelley's Bar at 109th and Amsterdam Avenue, where they remained until 2:05 a.m., when Briggs,

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

-3-

the two women and a man came out. The women and the man walked east on 109th Street and Briggs took a cab to the Biltmore Hotel. Upon arrival there he was put in room 702 and at 2:20 a.m. the lights went out, when he apparently went to bed.

At 8:20 a.m. this morning, the 21st, Briggs got up and went to Liggett's Drug Store at Grand Central Station; then went to a men's furnishings store, J. P. Carey; and returned to his room at 8:40 a.m.

At 8:50 a.m., the last time reported, Briggs was in the lobby of the Biltmore Hotel.

Respectfully,


J. K. Mumford

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



EAT:MMC
Time: 2:31

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____ b6
Miss Nease _____ b7C
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

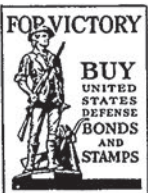
I informed Mr. Henry Schweinhaut of the
Department that Mr. Harry Hopkins called you
this morning [redacted]

b3

[redacted] I suggested he contact
Mr. Hopkins' office and Schweinhaut advised he
would do so promptly.

Respectfully,

Edward A. Tamm



62-74416-134
F B I
18 JAN 22 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

187a



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.
January 21, 1944

GCB:RMB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/20/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD
Re: C. NELSON SPARKS MATTER

At the request of Mr. Mumford, the writer communicated with Miss Ellen Downes, Secretary to Mr. Ickes, for the purpose of determining if it was possible to find any White House stationery in Briggs' office.

I proceeded to Miss Downes' office and was advised by her she had found four sheets and three envelopes of White House stationery in a file cabinet behind the desk of Briggs' secretary in Room 5138 of the Interior Building. These were identified by Miss Downes by placing her initials thereon. The writer also identified them by initialing, and these were delivered at approximately 6:15 P.M., January 20, 1944, to the Technical Laboratory for examination.

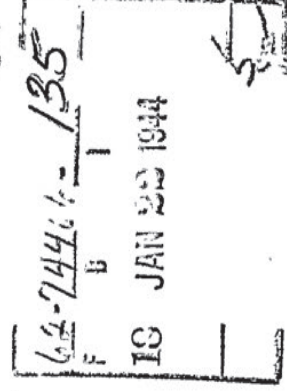
Respectfully,

G. C. Burton



JAN 22 1944

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy





Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

b6
b7C

EAT:DS

January 21, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

For record purposes it may be noted that at approximately 11:15 A. M. on January 18th Mr. Henry Schweinhaut called at my office after I had succeeded in reaching him telephonically at 10:00 A. M. and advised him that there were some developments in the Harry Hopkins' letter case that the Director desired to be furnished to him. Mr. Schweinhaut was informed, when he called at my office, that the Bureau's Laboratory had determined that the so-called original Harry Hopkins' letter had been written upon a typewriter in the outer office of George Briggs in the Interior Department, to-wit, Room 5138. Schweinhaut was advised that there has been no identification of any of the material in this case with the typewriter in Briggs' home. He was advised that the Bureau had identified [redacted] b3

[redacted]

Mr. Schweinhaut was advised that Briggs had been interviewed for several hours on Monday evening, January 17th, and that he had denied any connection with the case, any knowledge of either the Hopkins' letter or the several Nelson Sparks' letters and that he had only admitted knowledge of one or two inconsequential documents. Schweinhaut was advised that a Laboratory report would be submitted to him by approximately noon today (January 18th); that b3

[redacted]

Mr. Schweinhaut was advised that the Director believed that this matter should be pushed to a logical conclusion immediately and that he would urge that Schweinhaut immediately [redacted] b3

[redacted]

Mr. Schweinhaut was advised that the Director felt that it was essential to this matter to have [redacted]



It was pointed out to Mr. Schweinhaut that the Senator Langer speech in the Senate on Monday, January 17th, had resulted in publicity concerning virtually all the documents in the case and that consequently it would seem essential

JAN 22 1944

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that the matter be immediately handled in proper channels and a grand jury finding reported as soon as practical. Schweinhaut stated after some deliberation that [REDACTED]

b3

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I repeated to Schweinhaut the Bureau's belief that this matter should be pushed and pushed hard.

Mr. Schweinhaut was advised that the Bureau considered it desirable to take immediate steps to impound the two typewriters which had been identified with the writings in this case and was informed that the Director had informally suggested such action to Mr. Ickes by telephone in order that the typewriters would not be defaced, hidden or destroyed. Mr. Schweinhaut was urged to issue appropriate legal process at once in order to insure a legal impounding of the typewriters. He stated that he would do this.

Very truly yours,


Edw. A. Tamm

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

CC-287

JEM:EK

9:55 A.M.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/20/82 BY 312

January 21, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

ASAC Hennrich, WFO, telephonically advised me that the

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____ b6
Mr. Coffey _____ b7C
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Gandy _____ b7D

Respectfully,

W. J. Mumford

J. W. Mumford



28 JAN 22 1944

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-74466-137
18 JAN 22 1944



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM: BK
3:35 P.M.

January 21, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

In connection with the physical surveillance being maintained on George N. Briggs in New York, SA Emerich advised at this time that Briggs had left the Chateau Richlieu Restaurant on 51st Street at 1:30 and went into the bridge and backgammon club and apparently went up to his brother's place there. At 1:40 P.M. two women were seen going up to the same apartment.

At 1:50 P.M. subject came out with the man assumed to be his brother; they walked to Sixth Avenue, checked the newspaper headlines, and at 2:35 P.M. they were seen entering 41 West 53rd Street, which is a brownstone apartment and in which there is a Mary Jane Mason. They are there at present. Mr. Emerich mentioned that we had asked them to check the telephone number subsequently determined to be that listed to this address, just the other day.

Respectfully,

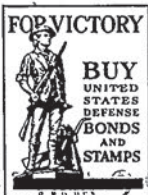
J. K. Mumford

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY

RECORDED & INDEXED

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F	B	I
18 JAN 22 1944		



*memo to Clark
1/22/44*

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 22, 1944

JKM:PES
Call: 9:00 a.m.
Transcribed: 9:10 a.m.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/20/80 BY

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

ASAC Hennrich of the Washington Office called to advise that George N. Briggs arrived here from New York on the 7:05 a.m. train. He first went to his sister-in-law's home on Hawthorne Street and then went to his own home in Fairlington, Virginia.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Harbo - b6 -
- Mr. Quinn Tamm b7C
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford
J. K. Mumford



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18 JAN 22 1944

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JAN 22 1944

23 JAN 22 1944

62-74466

JKM:PES
1/15/44

39545

**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY SCHWEINHART
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Attached hereto is a copy of a memorandum trans-
mitted today to the Attorney General in the C. Nelson Sparks
matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

RECORDED

62-74466-140

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 19 1944

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 6
JAN 18 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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[Handwritten signature and initials]

62-74466
JKM:PES
1/15/44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM C. CLARK

Attached hereto is a copy of a memorandum trans-
mitted today to the Attorney General in the C. Nelson Sparks
matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

RECORDED

62-74466-141

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 19 1944
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
2:46 PM '44

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 6
★ JAN 18 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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JAN 18 1944
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**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

404 New York Building
St. Paul, Minnesota
January 20, 1944

Director, FBI

Attention: Mr. J. K. Mumford

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

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Re: C. NELSON SPARKS
(Bureau File 62-74466)

Dear Sir:

Confirming our teletype of this date to the Bureau, this is to advise that on January 20, 1944 Special Agent EDWARD N. NOTESTEEN checked the records of the Hennepin County District Court and the Federal District Court at Minneapolis and found no records in connection with GEORGE N. BRIGGS.

Special Agent RAYMOND W. JOHNSON checked the records of the Federal District Court in St. Paul and no record was found. The following records were secured in connection with GEORGE N. BRIGGS from the Clerk of the Ramsey County District Court at St. Paul.

A suit was filed on November 16, 1940, Globe Oil and Refining Company, plaintiff, versus GEORGE N. BRIGGS, defendant, in the amount of \$58.28 on account of goods sold and delivered by the plaintiff to the defendant at his request between November 16, 1940 and January 3, 1941. The case was dismissed on September 8, 1941 by the attorney for the plaintiff. *hr*

A second suit was filed on July 7, 1942, Ramsey County District Court, in the matter of the State of Minnesota versus GEORGE N. BRIGGS under the Minnesota Employment and Security Act for wages in the amount of \$250.43 payable by the defendant for employment from May 1, 1937 to November 1, 1940 at the rate of 6% from November 1, 1940. This was a summons and complaint and no disposition has been made in this case and it is still pending on the docket of the Clerk of Court, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Very truly yours,

mm *62-74466-141*

M. B. RHODES SAC	RECORDED & INDEXED	18 JAN 23 1944
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11

RWJ:LM

10 JAN 22 1944 *579*

J. Edgar Hoover
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

January 21, 1944

JKM:PES
Call: 9:15 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

SA Emrich of the New York Office telephonically advised that George N. Briggs is leaving New York for Washington tonight.

In connection with the surveillance, Mr. Emrich said that George and Glenn Briggs left the apartment of Mason, who is a business partner of Briggs' brother, about 7:00 p.m. and went back to the Bridge and Backgammon Club and had dinner. They then went to make reservations on the B&O Railroad. They had to catch a bus at 11:30 p.m. at Rockefeller Center to get the train in Jersey City; therefore, in the interim they went to the Radio City Theater.

Mr. Emrich advised that Briggs has a reservation on the B&O Railroad train 102, upper 7, car 903, leaving Jersey City at 1:00 a.m. and due to arrive in Washington at 7:05 a.m. tomorrow morning, January 22. He said two Agents will go along on the train.

I told Mr. Emrich to attempt to determine the business of Mason and Glenn Briggs and advise me.

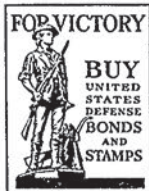
I transferred Mr. Emrich's call to the Washington Field Office in order that he could pass on the above information concerning Briggs' return to Washington.

Respectfully,

J. E. Mumford

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DATE 9/30/86 BY



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REN:BGW
62-4792

Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice
Washington Field Division, 1435 K Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D.C.

January 21, 1944

Director, FBI

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

Supplementing my letter dated January 20, 1944 in connection with the above entitled matter, there is attached hereto a list of telephone numbers charged to Falls Church 1961-W, listed in the name of GEORGE N. BRIGGS, 226 W. Broad Street, Falls Church, Virginia.

Very truly yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 30 85 BY

Guy Hottel
GUY HOTTEL
SAC

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Enclosure



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&
INDEXED

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18	JAN 22 1944

[Signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1662132-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 66

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FBI IN POLITICS, SPARKS SAYS

Ohioan Writes Biddle Regarding
Action on Hopkins' Letter

By Arthur Hachten

Staff Correspondent, International News Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—C.

Nelson Sparks, former Mayor of Akron, Ohio, charged today that Harry Hopkins, intimate adviser to President Roosevelt, is using the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the 1944 presidential campaign.

Sparks made public in Washington a letter he sent to Attorney General Francis Biddle, protesting against what he described as extra-legal methods of the FBI at Hopkins' behest to obtain from him an "original" letter by Hopkins predicting Wendell L. Willkie would be the Republican presidential nominee in '44.

The letter, allegedly written by Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Tex., August 17, 1943, was branded a forgery by Hopkins in announcing he had called upon the FBI to find the "man or men" guilty of the "forgery."

ASSAILS ACTION

Sparks wrote to Biddle:

When the two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation called upon me at my home in Akron, Ohio, on December 28, and requested, upon orders from you, that I turn over to them the letter written by Mr. Harry Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee, which request I refused with the statement 'I would willingly show the Attorney General the letter personally.' I had not then read Mr. Hopkins' public statement in regard to the authenticity of the letter.

"Since reading the direct charge made by Mr. Hopkins that the letter I hold is a forgery, and later learning of the method that he used to publicize the Federal Bureau of Investigation into a national political campaign, I have concluded that the method used by you to secure the letter is wholly un-American and a glaring example of what can happen to the rights of any or all American citizens under a highly personalized form of government, call it what you may, Communism, Fascism or New Dealism.

CITES LEGAL MANNER

"I, therefore, wish to advise you that, if you desire to see the original letter written by Mr. Hopkins to Dr. Lee, which I hold, and which came to me in a perfectly legal manner, you should proceed through those channels made available to you through laws enacted by Congress.

"I cannot allow myself to be a party to a political incident of national importance that has all the earmarks of an attempt to 'put the works' upon the rights of a private citizen by a veiled threat of the long arm of Government.

"I await with interest and a full degree of cooperation any legal steps that you may decide to take."

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Coffey ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Mr. Acers ✓
Mr. Carson ✓
Mr. Harbo ✓
Mr. Hendon ✓
Mr. Mumford ✓
Mr. Starke ✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

TEXT OF LETTER

The disputed Hopkins letter to Dr. Lee reads as follows:

"What has been done in the (blot) matter? Will you write me, please. What developments in the other situation? Willkie is going to be the man, in my opinion, and I can promise you good cooperation from that quarter if you think it would be helpful."

Sparks included the text in his book, "One Man—Wendell L. Willkie," in which he charged Willkie backers "bought" the 1940 Republican presidential nomination for him.

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tr. 1/19/44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-10-86 BY [redacted]

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOM C. CLARK
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: Alleged Harry Hopkins Letter to Dr.
Umphrey Lee, Dated August 17, 1943.

This will acknowledge receipt of your memorandum dated January 19, 1944, in the C. Nelson Sparks matter, bearing the above caption.

The investigation you requested in the reference memorandum has been undertaken and I am attaching hereto the results of inquiries made pursuant to several of them:

Re George N. Briggs

Item number 4 in your reference memorandum requested the interview of the secretaries who had handled Mr. Briggs' work since August 1, 1943. You will recall I previously transmitted to you the results of an interview with Mrs. Iris Vaden, who was his secretary during certain portions of 1943. There is attached hereto a memorandum covering interviews with Miss Linda Smith, Miss Mary Belay, Miss Flora Erickson, and Miss Pauline Roberts, who have at various times worked in that same capacity. This completes your request under item 4.

Item 6 of your reference memorandum requested a [redacted]

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This completes the handling under item number 6.

Item number 10 suggested that samples be taken of all typewriters used in Mr. Briggs' office for the past four months. This has been done and the results of subsequent examinations made known to you.

Item number 11 suggested that the same action be taken with regard to any typewriter Mr. Briggs might have in his home. Please be advised that such a typewriter was located, samples taken and an appropriate examination made.

Tolson _____
M. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Starke _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

Memorandum for Mr. Tom C. Clark

There is also transmitted herewith a memorandum containing information concerning one Truman T. Pierson, 5634 Nicolette Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, who appeared as the sender of a bulky air mail special delivery letter received at the Post Office, Washington, D. C., addressed to C. Nelson Sparks, care of Foreman of the Grand Jury or Senator La Follette.

There is attached hereto a memorandum reporting the results of inquiry concerning the alleged advance payment made by a woman for a room for C. Nelson Sparks at the Carroll Arms Hotel during the week of January 10, 1944.

A memorandum is attached hereto briefly summarizing possibly pertinent movements of George C. Briggs during the period from 6:00 p.m., January 13, 1944, to January 19, 1944.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

JMK:MTP
1-19-44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

BY: C. NELSON SPARKS

DATE: 3-28-85

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Interviews have been conducted with the various stenographers who have acted as secretaries to Mr. George H. Briggs, to determine their knowledge of any participation he may have had in the instant matter in his customary manner of preparing communications. It will be recalled a report was previously made concerning an interview with Mrs. Iri Vaden who worked for him during portions of 1943. It will be recalled Mr. Briggs stated he had had various secretaries assigned to him for a few days at a time. The following who have been interviewed are those who could be identified:

Miss Wanda Smith, present secretary to Mr. Briggs, advised that she has been in Mr. Briggs' office since October 16, 1943; that she never wrote any personal letters for Mr. Briggs because he writes his own letters unless they are letters pertaining to any official business. She stated that Mr. Briggs was a very good typist and made use of his own personal typewriter, which was located at his own desk, to a very large extent. In connection with the sending of telegrams, Miss Smith advised it was Mr. Briggs' custom to rough draft his telegrams and then request her to telephone the Western Union office and that a messenger would be directed to his office where the rough draft of the telegram would be personally obtained from Mr. Briggs.

Miss Smith, after observing the letters which were published in the January 18th issue of the Times-Herald, advised that the signatures were very similar to the signatures of Mr. Briggs; however, she added that he always signed the official mail "G. H. BRIGGS." She further related that White House stationery is readily accessible at the Department of the Interior inasmuch as they often prepare letters for the President's signature.

She informed that she has not at any time heard the names of C. Nelson Sparks, Frank Phillips, or Updrey, or mentioned by Mr. Briggs and she is certain that none of these gentlemen have visited Mr. Briggs in his office. She also definitely recalled that she has never received any dictation from Mr. Briggs which was directed to any of the above names and has never seen Mr. Briggs write any letters to any of them. She advised that the first information she has received concerning the Hopkins letter or anything relating to same was when she read the Times-Herald newspaper. She mentioned, however, that sometime back an item appeared in a column which she believed was written by Drew Pearson which made some reference to Mr. Briggs in connection with the book prepared by Mr. Sparks entitled "One Man - Wendell Willkie." She remembered that Mr. Briggs at this time made the remark that he knew absolutely nothing about the statement made by Mr. Pearson concerning him. Miss Smith related that during the time that she has been assigned to his office that he has not been absent from same, has not had an opportunity to make a trip to Texas, or to any other point of such distance, and that she has been in daily touch with him.

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Starke _____
Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

INDEXED

62-74460-145
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 22 1944

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Miss Mary Belay, Division of Personnel Supervision and Management, Department of the Interior, advised that she had served as Mr. Briggs' secretary for two weeks in January 1943 and also from October 11th to October 16th, 1943; that during this time she never took any dictation which did not relate to official matters inasmuch as Briggs did his own secretarial work for his personal correspondence. She stated that during the week in October she took only two or three letters from Briggs and that these letters did not concern Sparks, Phillips or Lee hereinbefore mentioned. Miss Belay observed the letter which was written on October 15, 1943, and which was published in the Times-Herald, to Mr. C. Nelson Sparks, and advised that she did not type that letter and advised further that instant letter was set up in block indentation which was contrary to her style of typing. Miss Belay also stated that White House stationery was available in Mr. Briggs' office and further that the signatures appearing on the letters published in the Times-Herald appeared to be the signatures of Mr. Briggs. She could not recall that any telegrams were sent from Mr. Briggs' office during her assignment to same.

Miss Flora Erickson, Division of Personnel Supervision and Management, Department of the Interior, stated that she was Mr. Briggs' secretary from the latter part of January 1943 to May 6, 1943, when Mrs. Vaden returned as Briggs' secretary; that Briggs typed a good deal and that he typed all of his personal letters and articles which he was preparing for Secretary Ickes. She stated that the names of Sparks, Phillips, and Lee were unfamiliar to her and that at no time did she take any dictation pertaining to these individuals. She corroborated the advice of the others interviewed relating to the mechanics of sending telegrams from Mr. Briggs' office. Miss Erickson observed the letters in the Times-Herald and advised that the signatures and initials used on these letters were similar to the signatures and initials used by Mr. George N. Briggs.

Miss Pauline Roberts, Division of Territories, was interviewed at her home at 2804 14th Street, N. W., and advised that she had only worked for Briggs for one week immediately following the departure of Mrs. Vaden in September, 1943, she not being able to definitely remember whether it was the third or fourth week in September. She stated that during this period at no time did she take any dictation from Briggs and the only work that she had done for Briggs was to type some rough draft material pertaining to an article which Briggs was writing for Secretary Ickes. She could not recall that any telegrams were sent from Briggs' office during her stay. She knew absolutely nothing concerning the Willkie book written by Sparks nor had she ever heard anything in regard to instant matter. Miss Roberts added that Briggs was a very good typist and she had observed him typing numerous articles for Secretary Ickes. She observed the signatures of Briggs which appeared on the letters published in the Times-Herald and advised that the signatures were very similar to the signatures of Mr. Briggs.

Miss Ellen Downs, Secretary in Secretary Ickes' office, ascertained from Mrs. J. Atwood Maulding, Director of Personnel, that no permanent record is kept of temporary assignments of secretaries in the Department. For this reason it was impossible to determine the names of the individuals who may have served as temporary secretaries to Mr. Briggs.

JKM:mod
tr 1-19-44

Re: C. BRIGGS BRIGGS

Mr. George N. Briggs advised that he maintains no bank account, but that all of his banking transactions are carried on through the account of his wife, Mrs. Molly N. Briggs, at the Prince Georges Bank and Trust Company, Quantico, Maryland. Through a confidential source it has been determined that

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

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E. A. Tamm _____
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Harbo _____
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Kaufman _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

John

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JKMumford:PES

C. NELSON STARKS

January 19, 1944

On January 15, 1944, advice was received that the City Post Office, Washington, D. C., had in its possession a bulky air mail special delivery letter postmarked in Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 10, 1944, at 7.00 P.M. from Truman T. Pierson, 5634 Nicolette Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, addressed to C. Nelson Sparks, c/o Foreman of the Grand Jury or Senator La Follette. It was reported that both the United States Attorney's office and the office of Senator La Follette had refused to accept the package, and that thereafter the Post Office was furnished with the Akron, Ohio, address of C. Nelson Sparks.

Following is a brief summary of information received on January 17, 1944, concerning Truman T. Pierson:

Pierson is reported to have been born in Minneapolis, Minnesota; is sixty years of age; considered a promoter and political opportunist; and never known to have had regular employment. The 1942 Minneapolis City Directory listed him as president of the Allied Cat Lovers International, Inc.

It was reported that on November 10, 1943, Pierson filed in the Hennepin County District Court for the trade name "Grand Juror" for publication which was to be a pamphlet edited and published entirely by him and dealing with civic affairs.

It is further reported that Pierson was employed for a short period in 1937 by the Minnesota State Humane Society. He is said to be frequently involved in law suits and in January, 1939, a warrant was issued for his arrest for leaving a rented premises without notifying the landlord. The disposition of that action was noted as a fine of \$15.00.

In July, 1939, Pierson endeavored to file as a candidate for Mayor of Minneapolis and spoke in his own behalf with the slogan "Run the devil out of the City Hall." In 1942 he sued the Minneapolis Aquatennial for injuries alleged to have been sustained while attending the Aquatennial exhibition, and the judgment was for the defendant. Also in 1942 he sued the City of Minneapolis for \$6,000, alleging misplacement of his garbage cans and injury sustained in locating them. This matter never came to trial. He recently presented to the Minneapolis Internal Security Division of the Police Department a plaque commending it for its services.

Pierson has published numerous articles in local papers criticising various city departments and has been described as "a nut". In the spring of 1943 he appeared before the County Commissioner for Hennepin County and insisted that he be appointed as a special agent for the county to streamline its affairs and act as investigator for the County Attorney's office. He requested a salary of \$3,000. He was not appointed.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

ENCLOSURE

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Shortly thereafter he appeared at the Minneapolis Retail Credit Exchange, 600 Park Place Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota, presented a badge allegedly of a Deputy Sheriff, and demanded all of the credit information in the files on Thurman Pierson. At the time he claimed that his name was Swanson and that he was an investigator for the County Attorney's Office. He was recognized, however, and not furnished the information and the County Attorney's Office advised that he had never been employed by it.

On one occasion Pierson secured a position during the rush season with the Hennepin County Automobile Registration Bureau for the Secretary of State. He was discharged and some newspaper publicity incident thereto suggested that he had been accused of stealing a master key to the press room in the State Capitol.

Pierson is described as a well-known figure in Minneapolis, intelligent, of the bombastic promotional type, one who claims connections in high places but has long since been thoroughly discredited, and apparently considered unreliable and untrustworthy. His credit rating is reported as bad.

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Inquiry at the Carroll Arms Hotel revealed that Mr. Sparks checked in on January 6, 1944 and out on the same day; checked in on January 11, 1944 and out on January 12, 1944; and checked in on January 13, 1944 and out on January 14, 1944. The sources there advise that Mr. Sparks is a regular guest and therefore does not request reservations previous to his arrival; that he always pays his bills in cash.

The employees who checked Mr. Sparks out on January 12, 1944 and January 14, 1944 specifically stated that there was no such occurrence as anyone having made a reservation or a payment in advance.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-20-03 BY [redacted]

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b7C

January 19, 1944

Mr. George M. Briggs, residence 3034 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia; business address, Office of the Secretary of the Interior, was placed under physical surveillance at 6:00 P.M., January 13, 1944. His movements thereafter were of no apparent significance except for the following items:

January 14, 1944: (5:40 A.M.) Arrived at his office.
(9:25 A.M.) Proceeded to 729 15th Street, Northwest,
Washington, D. C., 7th floor, remaining
about one-half hour. The space visited has
a common receptionist for the entire floor
with offices occupied by the following
attorneys and firms:

Warren Atherton
T. J. McGrath
Justus S. Wardell
John Lewis Smith
John Lewis Smith, Jr.
Theodore T. Golden
G. E. Rosdon

Manuel J. Davis
Harry Moore
H. C. McBride
Thomas L. McManus
Ernest Schein
Johnson Metal Pro
The National St. I
Conference

Proceeded to Boren Building, 815 15th Street, Northwest, Suite 324-S, remaining approximately forty-five minutes. This place has a common receptionist and is occupied by the following individuals:

Dobbins Manufacturing Company
Ansul Chemical Company
R. G. Clark
C. Lindquist
Roy Lindquist
Glen Stratton
The Stan Rubber Company

(11:30 A.M.) Returned to his office
(12:00 P.M.) Left office, accompanied wife on personal matters, including shopping and a theater, and proceeded home.

January 15, 1944:

At office from 9:05 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.

January 17, 1944: (9:55 A.M.) Left office and proceeded to Room 2L3, Standard Oil Building, Third and Constitution Avenue, which is the law office of Henry J. Fox and Stanley I. Posner.

January 19, 1944:

Stayed last night with sister-in-law, Mrs Briggs, 4434 Hawthorne Street, Northwest.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY

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EAT:DS

January 20, 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~BY SPECIAL MESSENGER~~

Honorable Harry L. Hopkins
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Harry:

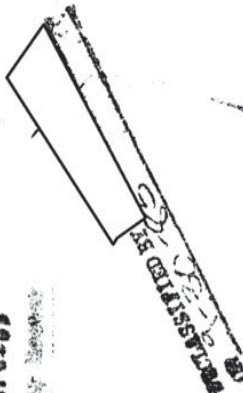
I thought you would be interested in having a copy of the press release made by Mr. C. Nelson Sparks today and accordingly I am transmitting herewith a mimeographed copy of this statement. I have been advised Mr. Sparks held his press conference at 3:00 P. M. this afternoon in the Senate Press Gallery and furnished the press representatives with a copy of the attached document.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

Attachment



62-11111-1416
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 22 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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January 14, 1944

11:54AM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. Tamm
MR. Ladd
MR. Nichols

I called Henry Schweinhaut to advise him SAC
Conroy interviewed Frank Phillips in New York this morning
and Phillips denied knowing Briggs nor having any knowledge
of the letter other than what he has read in the papers.
Schweinhaut advised he would talk to [redacted] as I suggested.
I told Schweinhaut I would find out where Phillips is and let
him know.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Tiers _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Starko _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

2:40 PM
1-14-44
JME

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&
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JAN 19 1944

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JAN 22 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/3/86 BY [redacted]

JKM:EK
1-20-44
62-74466 - 148

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attention: Mr. Henry A. Schweinhaut

On January 17, 1944 Mr. Jonathan Daniels, Administrative Assistant to the President, telephonically requested that a representative of this Bureau come to his office. His request was complied with and he thereupon expressed the desire that the following investigation be conducted with the understanding that the request therefor be considered as originating with Mr. Henry A. Schweinhaut who was handling the matter of C. Nelson Sparks for the Department.

- (1) Ascertain discreetly all facts available regarding the publication of the book "One Man - Wendell Wilkie."
- (2) Ascertain discreetly the origin of the money which financed the publication of the book by the Rayner Publishing Company.
- (3) Determine the identity and background of E. C. Rayner.

Mr. Daniels explained that he was particularly concerned with the publication of the instant book because of his belief that the whole venture was a "fly by night" affair. He advised confidentially that the War Production Board had instituted an inquiry into the matter of the publication because no record could be located of previous publications by the Rayner Publishing Company, and since it is necessary to obtain priorities for paper for use in books, as differentiated from pamphlets, a serious question arose concerning the source of the paper used in "One Man - Wendell Wilkie." He stated that that inquiry determined that the Rayner Publishing Company had not in fact printed the book, but that the Burr Printing House, 225 Varick Street, New York City, did so.

He also stated he was in possession of "fairly reliable information" that H. C. Sherman and Company, Chicago, Illinois, had published the subject to book; that 25,000 copies were printed by H. C. Sherman and Company pursuant to an order placed by John B. Murray, described as local representative of the Rayner Publishing Company, after which the Sherman Company was requested to discontinue any further printing; that subsequently it was asked for 25,000 more copies, but stated that the plates had been destroyed and no further printing was possible. The Sherman Company allegedly then presented the bill of \$2,700 which Rayner paid only \$782. Thereafter,

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Ward

32 JAN 24 1944
1550
144
cyc

Memorandum for the Attorney General

however, it was stated that one John C. Stowell, described as a prominent magazine distributor in Chicago, paid \$1,118 to the Sherman Company, thus satisfying the account in full.

Mr. Daniels reiterated his statement that the requested inquiries should be considered as being performed at the request of Mr. Schweinhaut in the Department of Justice and indicated that Mr. Schweinhaut would clear the matter with the Bureau. In the absence of any advice from you or Mr. Schweinhaut, I am referring the matter to you without action since the investigation requested appears to be entirely foreign to the objective of your requests in this case to date.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director



JFB:TD

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

January 17, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____ b6
Mr. Rosen _____ b7C
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

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DATE 9/30/85 BY

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: Book "One Man - Wendell Willkie";
Rayner Publishing Company, NYC

In accordance with your instructions, at 10:00 AM today pursuant to an appointment previously made, Agent J. F. Buckley interviewed Mr. Jonathan Daniels, Administrative Assistant to the President, in his office, Room 223 State Department Building.

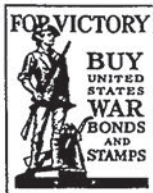
Mr. Daniels stated that he desired the following investigation conducted, with the understanding that the request for the investigation should be considered as originating with Mr. Henry A. Schweinhaut in the Department who is handling the matter of C. Nelson Sparks for the Department:

- (1) Ascertain discreetly all facts available regarding the publication of the book "One Man - Wendell Willkie".
- (2) Ascertain discreetly the origin of the money which financed the publication of the book by the Rayner Publishing Company.
- (3) Who is E. C. Rayner and what is his background.

Mr. Daniels stated that, of course, he was presuming that the Bureau would handle this inquiry with the utmost discretion because of what he described the "delicacy of the situation."

At the outset, Mr. Daniels stated that he was particularly concerned with the publication of the captioned book because he felt that the whole venture was a "fly by night" affair. In addition, he stated that the War Production Board inquired into the publication of the book because of the fact that no record could be located of previous publications by the Rayner Publishing Company and, of course, the question, according to Mr. Daniels, arose as to where the paper came from to print the book inasmuch as any allotment of paper for publications must be approved these days. The Library of Congress records, according to Mr. Daniels, do not reflect any prior publications nor any record with regard to the current publication. In elaborating on this, Mr. Daniels stated he wanted to explain the WPB angle in that it is not necessary to obtain priorities for publishing pamphlets, but it is necessary in connection with the publication of "books". He stated that instant publication, of course, came within the latter classification.

Apparently because of the foregoing situation, WPB contacted Rayner concerning the matter who advised that the Rayner Publishing Company did not, in fact, print the book, but that the Burr Printing House, 225 Varick Street,



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44 NOV 9 1964

1-17-44

New York City, did print it. Mr. Daniels stated that WPB is presently conducting what he terms a "compliance" investigation as a result of instant publication. The investigation is, of course, of the Rayner Publishing Company.

Mr. Daniels stated that he did not feel it would be advisable for the Bureau to contact WPB for the results of its investigations to date, but that he would contact WPB and would obtain whatever information they had and would make it available to you. Mr. Daniels said that from the information in his possession, the Burr Printing House is a very reliable concern.

In addition to the above information, Mr. Daniels stated that he had also received fairly reliable information that H. C. Sherman and Company, Chicago, Illinois, had published the captioned book. In this connection, he displayed to Agent Buckley a typewritten report and stated that he desired under no circumstances that his source of information be utilized or revealed. Agent Buckley noted that the report was made to Morris L. Ernst by one Daniel A. Doran. Mr. Daniels stated that the Agent could make notes relative to the report, but would not make it available to leave his office.

The report was in narrative form, recorded a visit to Chicago, Illinois, and contained the results of inquiries in that city and in New York City regarding E. C. Rayner and the Rayner Publishing Company. The report stated that according to the investigation of Doran, 25,000 copies of instant book were printed by H. C. Sherman and Company of Chicago and the order was placed by John W. Murray, described as "local representative of Rayner Publishing Company, New York City." After the initial order, the Sherman Company was requested to discontinue any further printing. However, subsequently it was asked for 25,000 more copies, at which time the Sherman Company told Murray that the plates had been destroyed and no further printing was possible. The Sherman Company presented a bill of \$2700 and Rayner paid only \$782.00. Subsequently, James O. Stowell, described as a prominent magazine distributor in Chicago, paid \$1918.00 to the Sherman Company, thus accounting in full for the bill.

According to the above report, Earl C. Rayner had an account in the Lake Shore and National Bank, Chicago, Illinois, from May 1929 to June 1932. The account was either in his name or jointly in his name and that of Mrs. Earl Rayner. He also had an account in the name of the Rayner Broadcasting Company from July 1931 to approximately July 1932.

Again, according to the report cited, Rayner was friendly with James J. O'Shaughnessy who not so long ago was connected with Liberty Magazine in a prominent capacity and is reportedly presently connected with Outdoor Advertising, Inc., New York City. He was described as having been born in St. Catharine, Missouri, and at one time having been connected with the Gundlach Advertising Company, Chicago, Illinois. The report of Doran stated that O'Shaughnessy had a very close tie-up with Tammany Hall in New York.

1-17-44

Reportedly, on or about January 11, 1934, Rayner was connected with the wines and Liquor Magazine of Chicago as publisher, which publication was described as having been engaged in "production news and wholesale distribution of wines and liquor."

Although the report did not state where the information came from promoting such action, a check was made of the death records in Chicago, Illinois, and New York City regarding the possible suicide of the first Mrs. Rayner. The report stated that there was no confirmation in Chicago of such a rumor and a check of the records there was negative, but the reporter Doran checked the New York City police records regarding suicides and found two, described as follows:

Lillian Rayner, 38 years of age, who died on March 29, 1933, of "veronal poisoning." The matter was investigated by Detective Sheldrick, 10th Precinct.

Florence Rayner, 46 years of age (date of death not given). She slipped or fell out of a window to the sidewalk while confined to the Manhattan General Hospital. The case was investigated by Detective Ruggiero, 13th Precinct.

The significance of the alleged suicide on the part of Rayner's first wife was not disclosed and Mr. Daniels said he did not know and was not able to say.

Mr. Daniels seemed inclined to hedge as to the extent of the investigation which should be made by the Bureau, but reiterated that "the inquiry, of course, should be considered as being performed at the request of Mr. Schweinhaut in the Department of Justice" who, according to Mr. Daniels, had or would clear the matter with you. Mr. Daniels desired to know whether he would have to wait until the entire matter was concluded. Mr. Buckley suggested that he might desire to call you and Mr. Daniels stated that he would call you Wednesday forenoon.

ACTION: Pending your instructions, no inquiries are being initiated into the matter inasmuch as it is felt that you will want to clear the request of Mr. Daniels with Mr. Schweinhaut in the Department.

Respectfully,


D. M. Ladd

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 13, 1944

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen b6
Mr. Tracy b7C
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

I accompanied Mr. Schweinhaut of the Department to the Interior Department where we interviewed Mr. Ickes, at his request. (Incidentally, Mr. Ickes advised he had just broken his collarbone having slipped and fallen; that he had come to the office today against his doctor's instructions, and that he was going to the hospital as soon as he finished talking with us.)

Mr. Ickes stated he had come to his office today for the purpose of talking with Mr. Briggs with reference to the Wilkie letter. He stated he interviewed Briggs at some length and that, without Briggs' knowledge, he had turned on a recorder which is concealed under his desk and had recorded the entire conversation. He stated he wanted to make available to the Bureau a copy of his interview with Briggs. He stated he will not have seen this at the time it is turned over to the Bureau, inasmuch as he will be in the hospital, but that he will have his secretary retain a copy for his own use. I suggested to the Secretary that the original records should likewise be retained and Mr. Ickes issued instructions to his secretary that these records be turned over to me for safekeeping after the messages are transcribed.

Mr. Ickes stated that during the interview Mr. Briggs admitted that he had originally seen the so-called Wilkie letter about Thanksgiving, when Sparks had brought it to his, Briggs', office in the Interior Building; that this was the first time he had ever seen this letter. Secretary Ickes asked Briggs whether he had ever been in Texas. Briggs claimed that he had never been within 100 miles of Texas at any time in his life. Mr. Ickes also stated that Briggs informed him that he, Briggs, had telephonically contacted Sparks in New York last night, January 12, 1944, in an effort to ascertain what Sparks had told the Grand Jury, but that Sparks refused to inform him as to his testimony. Mr. Ickes stated he did not recall much else of the conversation, but that the entire transcript would be made available to the Bureau.

During the discussion Mr. Ickes advised that he knew that Briggs was having considerable financial difficulty, inasmuch as he, Ickes, had personally advanced money to Briggs on several occasions to help him out; that in view of his financial condition, possibly the three newspapers, the Washington Times Herald, the Chicago Tribune, and the New York Daily News, might have paid Briggs for this story, although Mr. Ickes



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stated he had no reason to believe this. He stated he knows that Briggs, who is an ex-newspaperman from Minnesota, hates Wilkie and hates Governor ~~X~~Stassen. He stated Briggs had informed him that he thought this whole thing was a plan on the part of Harry Hopkins and Judge Rosenman to get Ickes. Mr. Ickes states he told Briggs that this was preposterous; that if Harry Hopkins wanted to get him there were much more direct methods for him to use than to engage in something as underhanded and criminal as this.

The Congressional directory shows George N. ~~X~~Briggs as Assistant to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and reflects that he resides at 226 West Broad Street, Falls Church, Virginia.

Secretary Ickes instructed his secretary to telephonically contact me as soon as she has transcribed the records, in order that I may pick up the information and the records from her office.

Respectfully,

W. H. H. H. H.

D. M. Ladd
D. M. Ladd

Harry H. H. H. H.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



DML:PC
2:20 PM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: NELSON SPARKS

Nelson A. Sparks

In accordance with your request, I telephonically contacted SAC Hottel of the Washington Field Office and told him it was desired that he place a loose physical surveillance on George N. Briggs, Assistant to Secretary Ickes. I advised that according to the Congressional Directory, Briggs lives at 226 West Broad Street, Falls Church, Virginia.

I told Hottel we want to know who Briggs contacts; where he goes and so forth for the next few days; that good experienced agents should be assigned to this surveillance and it should be handled very discreetly. I told him it was not necessary to make it a continual surveillance but just a spot check so that we can keep in touch with him.

I further told Hottel that Sparks is presently in New York but it is believed that he is due back in Washington either tonight or tomorrow; that when he is in Washington, he usually stays at the Carroll Arms Apartments and we want to know if Briggs contacts him.

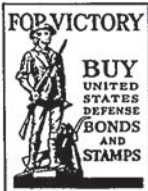
I advised that a check has been made with Civil Service for some background information on Briggs, but Civil Service does not have an investigative file on him. I told him to have an agent check this afternoon with the Credit Bureaus to see if he can get some background information, and to send it over to the Bureau just as soon as he gets it.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd
D. M. Ladd

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/86 BY [redacted]



62 JAN 25 1944

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F B I
20 JAN 14 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:KLW

January 21, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

MR. COFFEY

The original Harry Hopkins' check book, which has been utilized in the document examinations in the George N. Briggs-C. Nelson Sparks case, is being maintained in the safe in my office for possible future use.

Very truly yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/83 BY [redacted]

Edward A. Tamm.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Edward A. Tamm

b6
b7C



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&
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162-74466-151
FBI
JAN 24 1944

22 JAN 21 1944

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ADVISED BY SLIP(S) OF

DATE DEC 11-13-83

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

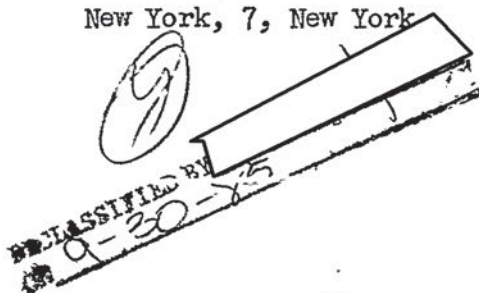
New York, 7, New York

EFC:MW

62-

Director, FBI

Attn: Mr. J. Mumford



CONFIDENTIAL

January 20, 1944

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the telephone call on January 20, 1944 from Mr. Mumford of the Bureau, relative to further investigation in instant matter.

Mr. FRANK PHILLIPS was telephonically contacted by me at the Ambassador Hotel on January 19, 1944 and I explained the situation so far as the request from the Department to interview the secretaries of Mr. PHILLIPS was concerned. Mr. PHILLIPS stated positively that he has no secretary in Dallas, Texas, that he has secretaries in his office in New York City, and also at the home office in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, but that to his positive knowledge, none of these secretaries have been in Dallas, Texas, at least for many months past, and that he had no secretary in New York City or elsewhere who could have been in Dallas to give such a message.

This information was conveyed to the Agent who was in Mr. Mumford's office in his stead about 6:45 p.m. on January 19, 1944.

[redacted] New York City, was interviewed by Special Agents Eugene F. Coyle and Edward W. Buckley, on January 20, 1944, at his office, [redacted] New York City. He was questioned concerning his knowledge of the HOPKINS letter [redacted] and other information [redacted] and, further, concerning [redacted]

[redacted] stated he had met [redacted] through a mutual friend early in [redacted], that after the introduction, he learned [redacted]

[redacted] with this, [redacted] stated [redacted] This was the first time [redacted]

[redacted] He stated at this time, [redacted]



*Re: memo to Clark
1/20/44
Memo to [redacted]
no page 2 [redacted]
1/21/44*

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Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Letter to Director

January 20, 1944

[redacted] explained that he had many contacts with [redacted] during which time he was furnished with information by [redacted] concerning [redacted]

b7D

he was not concerned with [redacted] He stated [redacted] [redacted] explanations as to [redacted] at face value, believing in [redacted] integrity and his [redacted] personal disinterest in political matters.

Concerning [redacted] advised the Agents that [redacted]

b7D

There was a [redacted]

advised [redacted]

b7D

b7D

62-

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS
Letter to Director

January 20, 1944

b7D

[REDACTED]

The Agents questioned [REDACTED] relative to whether or not

[REDACTED] He stated in his
opinion [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He stated he considered Mr. SPARKS
above any financial offer or bribe of this kind.

Concerning [REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He would offer
no details concerning the above information, as he stated: "I was not very
much concerned with the details at the time, only being concerned with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Any information fur-
nished by [REDACTED] was considered by him to be authentic and [REDACTED]

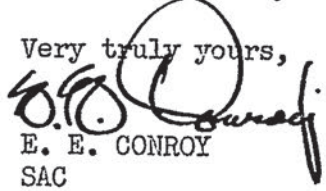
[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

The above information concerning the investigation conducted
by Special Agents Buckley and Coyle was telephonically furnished to Mr. HOWE,
of Mr. MUMFORD's office, at approximately 1:20 p.m. on January 20, 1944.

Very truly yours,


E. E. CONROY
SAC

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

JKM:BK
1-21-44

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62-74466-152

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DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

Attention: Mr. Henry A. Schweinhaut

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Pursuant to the request contained in Item 1 under the caption "Miscellaneous Investigation" in your memorandum dated January 19, 1944, I transmitted to you, along with other findings based on the requests in your memorandum, a summary of the results of an interview conducted January 20, 1944, with [redacted] In reviewing the detailed report of the interview, I note one item which may have particular significance.

b7D

You will recall that [redacted]

b3

In the course of the interview with [redacted] on January 20, 1944, he elaborated his remarks to the Agents of this Bureau by stating that there was [redacted]

b7D

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

Ad V Gm of Jim

ms 579

Memorandum for Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

b7D

[redacted] then went on to say that [redacted]

[redacted]

b7D

You will, of course, observe that [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] However, I thought I should call this to your attention because of the confusion which might result should [redacted] be subpoenaed and testify along those lines.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JKM:BK
1:45 P.M.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

SA Emerich, New York, telephonically advised that a check was made at another credit agency in New York; that not much was learned about Glenn W. Briggs, brother of George N. Briggs, but that considerable was learned about Mary Jane Mason.

With reference to Mary Jane Mason, Mr. Emerich advised that her former husband was a R. A. Mason; her present residence was given as 37 West 51st Street, the location of the Bridge and Backgammon Club. A former residence was shown as 11 West 51st Street, where the Club was previously located for three years. Her business is the Bridge and Backgammon Club at the above address. She is a divorcee, about 41 years of age, has no dependants, and is apparently divorced from R. A. Mason although they have never verified that. Mrs. Mason and Glenn W. Briggs are the financial principals in the Bridge and Backgammon Club located on the second floor of the above address. They have been in that business since 1937, and have in their employ two or three people. Prior to 1937 she was apparently a public stenographer, and was believed to have had small holdings in oil properties in Oklahoma given to her by her former husband who was in the oil business in Oklahoma. Mr. Emerich said the rest of the data listed was inconsequential.

With reference to the name Ed Acklund, Mr. Emerich said the names Ed Acklund, Glenn Briggs and M. J. Mason appear on the bell, and it may be that Ed Acklund has just recently been taken in more or less as a co-partner, but nothing definite is known about him.

He inquired if a copy of the log of their surveillance should be sent to the Bureau, and I told him that inasmuch as these data had been recorded in memorandum form and already submitted to the Department, they need not send us a copy of their log, but that it should be included in their files.

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DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]



Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford
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22 JAN 21 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____ b6
Mr. Hendon _____ b7C
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____ b3
Miss Gandy _____

JKM:EK
62-74466

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/23/93 BY 317

January 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. GLAVIN

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Enclosed herewith is [redacted]

This enclosure was furnished to the Bureau by Mr. Schweinhaut.

Respectfully,

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

J. F. Mumford



Enclosure - (All Temporary & given)
(Being used)

RECORDED

62-74466-154
FBI
JAN 24 1944

100-579

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____

HBL:KLW
Call: 3:25 PM

January 22, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/30/85 BY

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Mr. Henry Schweinhaut contacted me at this time, in your absence, and advised that Briggs had just called him and said that he is being followed; that there is a car full of men out in front of where he is now. Mr. Schweinhaut quoted Briggs as saying: "I wired you that I would be here; I phoned you this morning that I am here and I will be there Monday to testify, why is it necessary to follow me around, etc?" Mr. Schweinhaut said he told Briggs he didn't know he was being followed.

Mr. Schweinhaut said that he, Mr. Carusi and Mr. Maynard Smith have discussed the matter and have come to the conclusion that there is no longer any necessity in keeping him under surveillance; that they are having us waste our manpower. I told Mr. Schweinhaut that it was entirely up to him. He instructed that we remove the surveillance on Briggs and I replied that if that is what he desired, we would do it.

Respectfully,



Handwritten: A copy furnished to the A. J. Long
A. J. Long
H. B. Long
579
JAN 24 1944

162-74466-155

JAN 24 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

JKM:BK
2:26 P.M.

January 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

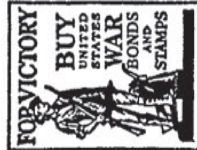
ASAC Hennrich, Washington Field, telephonically advised that George N. Briggs is now at his sister-in-law's residence on Hawthorne Street, N.W.

He also advised there is no question but that Briggs knows who the Agents are; in fact, Briggs' wife waved to them a little while ago. Briggs had a lot of fun coming in from Virginia by going fast, then slowing down, etc. Mr. Hennrich said that over in Virginia there is nobody out on the road near this housing development, and when Briggs leaves there, he sees the Bureau cars drop in behind him and he knows they aren't going to lose him. He indicated he has four men on the surveillance and he has to keep changing them often for this reason.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]



Respectfully,
J. K. Mumford

J. K. Mumford

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b7c
62-7441-136
IN BB I
33 JAN 24 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-2



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:VK January 24, 1944
Call 9:45 a.m.
Transcribed 9:50 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Special Agent Newby of the Washington Field
Office called to advise that [redacted]

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

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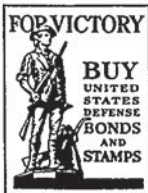
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford



RECORDED 62-74466-157
JAN 24 1944

JKM:EK
1-18-44
62-74466

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY SCHNEINHART
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attached hereto is a copy of a memorandum, together with
a copy of its enclosure, which was transmitted today to the Attorney
General in the C. Nelson Sparks matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Attachment

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/20/85 BY [redacted]

RECORDS SECTION
RECORDED
INDEXED
JAN 13 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

62-74466-159
JAN 13 1944
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Belmont
Starnes
Tamm
Nease
Gandy

JAN 13 1944

Handwritten signature

62-74466-159

b6
b7c

JKM:PSK
1/14/44

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY SCHWEINHART
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attached hereto is a copy of a memorandum transmitted today to the Attorney General in the C. Nelson Sparks matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/20/83 BY 3102

RECORDED

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100-11466-160
JAN 14 1944

Tolson	
E. A. Tamm	
Clegg	
Coffey	
Glavin	
Ladd	
Nichols	
Rosen	
Tracy	
Acers	
Carson	
Harbo	
Hendon	
Mumford	
Starks	
Quinn Tamm	
Nease	
Gandy	

JAN 14 1944

b6
b7c

JKM:PES
1/14/44

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM C. CLARK

Attached hereto is a copy of a memorandum trans-
mitted today to the Attorney General in the C. Nelson Sparks
matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/28/85 BY [redacted]

Enclosure

RECORDED

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1-161

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Wamford _____
Stark _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Randy _____

1-25-1944

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EAT:DS

January 20, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

Attention: Mr. Schneidmuntz

Confirming the information furnished to you telephonically this afternoon by Mr. Tamm, you are advised that Mr. Harry Hopkins had on January 19, 1944, advised me that

b3

Mr. Hopkins was informed that his desires would be transmitted to you.

Very truly yours,

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b7C

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/23/83 BY 1043

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 24 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1043

JKM:EK
1-18-44
62-74466

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM C. CLARK

Attached hereto is a copy of a memorandum, together with a copy of its enclosure, which was transmitted today to the Attorney General in the C. Nelson Sparks matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Attachment

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/20/88 BY [redacted]

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Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Starke _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



General Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:BK

January 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

I thought you would like to know that at 5:05 P.M. advice was received from ASAC Hennrich, Washington Field Office, that Mr. George N. Briggs was sitting in his car in front of "The Ice Palace," 4461 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest, apparently waiting for his daughter who is skating.

He was surveilled there from the home of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Clare Briggs, 4434 Hawthorne Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., where he and his family have been staying since last night. Surveillance of him is continuing.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/20/82 BY SP/BJ

Wm

74466-164

INDEXED

JAN 20 1944

EX-3

287

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

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b7c

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

New York, New York

JCW:MFB

January 20, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

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b7c

Attention: Mr. J. K. MUMFORD

Dear Sir:

JOSEPH GILPIN YOUNG SANBORN was interviewed by Special Agent Joseph C. Walsh, Jr. this morning in the office of the Intelligence Officer at Pier 6, Staten Island, New York. SANBORN is Chief Quartermaster aboard U.S.S. TOURMALINE, PY-20, Class N-1, USNR, 603-59-46.

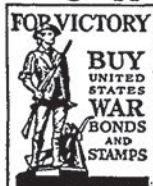
SANBORN was interviewed for the purpose of his identifying the handwriting of GEORGE N. BRIGGS appearing on the fingerprint card of BRIGGS taken in 1941 in connection with his Civil Service application.

SANBORN explained that he was employed as a Junior Clerk in the Personnel Division, Department of Interior, from October 1940 to March 1942. One of his duties there, SANBORN stated, was to assist in the fingerprinting of applicants for positions with the Department of Interior. He was assigned to this particular duty from December 1940 to May or June 1941.

SANBORN advised he did not have a clear recollection of having fingerprinted GEORGE N. BRIGGS. However, on viewing the picture of BRIGGS appearing on Page 8 of the New York Daily News, dated January 20, 1944, he stated he recalled fingerprinting a gentleman strongly resembling this individual, whom he described as, "somewhat tall and rather heavy set." SANBORN stated this person was brought to him to be fingerprinted by Mr. ICKES' outer secretary and, although he does not recall his name nor his position, he assumed he held a position of some importance.

DEFERRED RECORDING

SANBORN was quite definite in his statement that whenever he undertook to fingerprint an individual he adhered to the policy wherein the person to be fingerprinted filled out the necessary information on the fingerprint card in his own handwriting before being fingerprinted. Therefore, SANBORN stated if BROOKS was fingerprinted by him, all the handwriting appearing on the card, with the exception of SANBORN's signature, is



34 JAN 25 1944

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RECORDED
&
INDEXED

162-24466-166
FBI
33 JAN 25 1944

JCW:MFB
Letter-Director

January 20, 1944

necessarily the handwriting or handprinting of Mr. BRIGGS.

SANBORN was quite certain that he was not present at the time BRIGGS filled out the Civil Service form. He believed, however, Mr. ABRAHM CANNON may have assisted Mr. BRIGGS in properly executing this form as such a duty came within his province. SANBORN stated he believed Mr. CANNON was still employed by the Department of Interior and that his office was located in Room 5127, Department of Interior Building, Washington, D. C.

The foregoing facts were set out in a signed statement submitted by SANBORN, the original of which is being retained in the New York Field Division files.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY, SAC *mc*

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

New York, N. Y.

January 20, 1944

ml
EFE:RJP

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

Director, FBI

ATTENTION: Mr. J. K. Mumford

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith original and copy of memorandum
submitted by Special Agent E. F. Covle reflecting [redacted]

b7D

DEFERRED RECORDING

At the present time, in accordance with your request, [redacted]

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY, SAC

ENC 33
Enclosures



1944-5-15

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162-744-1-167
F B I
33 JAN 25 1944
(5)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, N. Y.

EFC:RJP

January 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

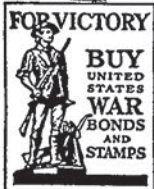
Reference is made to telephonic request of Mr. Mumford of
the Bureau of January 18, 1944 relative to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the Hotel Tudor, New York City.

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Investigation at the Hotel Tudor. [REDACTED]

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [REDACTED]



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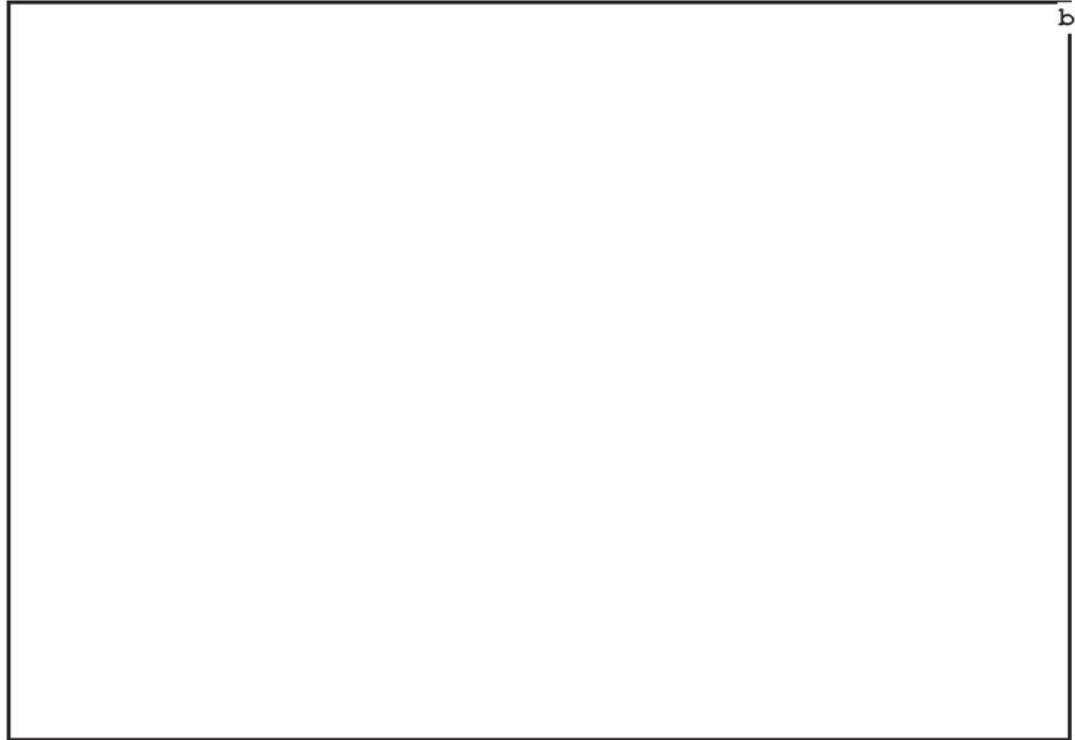
ENCLOSURE

62-74466-16.7

EFC:RJP

January 19, 1944

b7D



[redacted] writer learned that Mr. SPARKS' mail was forwarded to Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Ill. At the present time. Mr. SPARKS has taken permanent transient room at Hotel Tudor. [redacted]

b7D

EUGENE F. COYLE
Special Agent

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:DS

January 21, 1944

Mr. Tolson.....	
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....	
Mr. Clegg.....	
Mr. Coffey.....	
Mr. Glavin.....	
Mr. Ladd.....	
Mr. Nichols.....	
Mr. Rosen.....	
Mr. Tracy.....	
Mr. Acers.....	
Mr. Carson.....	
Mr. Hendon.....	
Mr. Mumford.....	
Mr. Starke.....	
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....	
Mr. Nease.....	
Miss Gandy.....	

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/86 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Briggs case

At approximately half past two on January 20th Mr. Schweinhaut contacted me by telephone and stated that there were some angles of this case that he desired to discuss with me and I told him I would be glad to see him immediately. He came to my office at 4:00 P. M., accompanied by Mr. Smith, another attorney in the Department, who apparently is working on this case also. Schweinhaut stated that he had talked to Tom Clark about the case at some length and that Clark was of the opinion that the Bureau should conduct a very detailed investigation into the background, sponsorship and activities of the Raynor Printing Company, which is the organization that printed Sparks' book about Willkie. Schweinhaut said that Clark believed the Bureau should check to determine how the Raynor Printing Company was able to obtain the necessary supply of paper to print this book and should check the Company's finances and all other information about it to determine whether there was not someone else involved in this situation.

Schweinhaut stated that Clark had received information indicating that a law firm occupied office space on the same floor of a building as the Raynor Printing Company and that this law firm was alleged to have paid the office rental of the Raynor Company. According to information reaching Tom Clark there is apparently some connection between this law firm and the law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell.

Clark also was of the opinion that an effort should be made to locate all of the bank accounts of C. Nelson Sparks and a very detailed examination should be made of them. I asked Schweinhaut the source of Clark's information and he stated that he did not know.

Schweinhaut stated that he just wanted to advise the Bureau of this request and see what the Bureau's reaction to conducting this investigation would be. I told Schweinhaut that the Bureau would conduct any and all investigation requested in the case by the Department, but that in order to facilitate the handling of the investigation, any investigation that the Criminal Division wanted should be requested in memorandum form. I pointed out to Schweinhaut that undoubtedly if the Bureau made any inquiry at banks in Akron, Ohio, or any place else where Sparks had a bank account, the bank would undoubtedly notify him. I pointed out to Schweinhaut that of course Sparks would probably blow off to the newspapers when a check is made of his account and that when the Government would be confronted with its situation.



34 JAN 25 1944

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Memo for the Director

-2-

of its key witness at any subsequent criminal trial of the case. I told Schweinhaut that this, however, was his problem and not the Bureau's and that we would promptly conduct any and all investigation requested.

I pointed out to Schweinhaut that you had instructed that requests for investigation in this case be handled by long-distance telephone and teletype to expedite the transmittal of the information to the Criminal Division. I told Mr. Schweinhaut that all of the material requested in the Criminal Division's memorandum received in the Bureau on January 19th would be finished and returned to the Criminal Division by the close of business on January 20th.

I told Mr. Schweinhaut that the Bureau was becoming increasingly concerned over the delay on the Department's part in reaching some conclusion on this case. Schweinhaut was informed that the Bureau's Laboratory examination had identified the Hopkins' letter as a forgery, had identified the typewriter in Briggs' office as the machine upon which the forged letter was written, had identified the various collateral letters explaining the handling of the letter as having been written on the typewriter besides Briggs' case, had identified Briggs' handwriting as being identical with the signatures on these letters, but that as yet the Department had not seen fit either to have an indictment returned, report out a grand jury finding of some other type, or even to take Briggs before the grand jury. I told Schweinhaut that the Bureau was getting sick of wet-nursing Briggs, keeping him under constant surveillance and pointed out that the Bureau had a number of men tied up now, watching him in New York, and that apparently the Department did not know what they were going to do next. I told Schweinhaut that in your opinion the requests such as those outlined above were all right for the obtaining of information possibly necessary in the trial of a case, but most certainly they were not necessary for the culmination of the grand jury proceedings and that the public reaction to the delay in the handling of this case was bound to be an unfortunate one. It was pointed out to Schweinhaut that already the newspapers are beginning to ridicule the whole matter apparently because of the length of time in which the proceedings have been dragged out. Schweinhaut was informed that the Bureau felt that some positive and affirmative action should be taken to bring the matter to an early conclusion and that the Bureau's opinion in this regard was expressed to Schweinhaut days ago with no apparent results.

Respectfully,


E. A. Tamm

JKM:EK
1-20-44

62-74466-169

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

This is in further reference to your memorandum dated January 19, 1944 captioned "Alleged Harry Hopkins Letter to Dr. Humphrey Lee, dated August 17, 1943," supplementing the investigative results requested therein which I have previously sent you.

All investigation requested in your reference memorandum has been completed and is set out hereinafter under the same item heads and numbers as contained in your communication.

In regard to George H. Briggs

1. Attached hereto is a memorandum summarizing the data secured as a result of a check and review of the personnel records of George H. Briggs at the Department of the Interior.
2. The records with regard to leave of George H. Briggs at the Department of the Interior were reviewed and indicate that he has had no leave charged against him since August 1, 1943. You may also be interested to know in this same regard that the records of the Department of the Interior fail to indicate any official travel performed by Briggs since that date.
3. There is enclosed herewith a memorandum setting forth briefs of law suits of record against George H. Briggs in Washington, D. C. and St. Paul, Minnesota.
4. Detailed memorandum reports have previously been submitted to you concerning the interviews with all known secretaries assigned to George H. Briggs since August 1, 1943.

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Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Akers
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Quinn
Nease
Gandy

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Memorandum for Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

7. All leading hotels in Dallas, Texas, ten in number, have been checked for the period September 27 to October 9, 1943 with negative results in so far as the name George N. Briggs is concerned.

8. There is attached hereto a memorandum setting forth the results of the inquiry at the Department of the Interior for record information to determine whether any work was done or letters written by George N. Briggs between the dates of September 27 and October 9, 1943.

9. Investigation disclosed that during the period from September 27 to October 9, 1943, [redacted]

10. Specimens have heretofore been taken from the typewriters in the offices occupied by George N. Briggs and you have been advised concerning the examinations made and the identity of the person who could introduce these specimens into evidence. The typewriters discovered were an Underwood Standard typewriter serial number 4282905-11 on a typewriter stand next to the chair at the desk used by Mr. Briggs in his private office, Room 5138, New Interior Office Building, and Underwood Standard typewriter serial number M-3229119-11 at the desk in the reception room, Room 5149, occupied by the secretary of George N. Briggs. A check of the inventory of Mr. Briggs' office as of January 1, 1943 indicated that those two typewriters were then assigned to those rooms. There is no record in the file to indicate there has been any change since that date.

11. As I have previously advised you, specimens were taken with the permission of George N. Briggs from Standard Underwood typewriter serial number 3861730-5 found in his home at 3034 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia. These specimens have been subjected to appropriate examination. The typewriter, according to Mr. Briggs, was rented by him from the Smith Typewriter Exchange, 443 11th Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

Miscellaneous Investigation

1. There is attached hereto a memorandum setting forth the results of the interview you requested with [redacted] New York City.

2. I previously reported to you the results of an interview with Mr. Frank Phillips at New York City on January 13, 1944, during which he advised that the headquarters of his company are at Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Nevertheless, a check was made at Dallas where it was determined that there is no main establishment of the company where an office setup is maintained for Mr. Frank Phillips, but that only plants of the company are in that vicinity. Inquiry was again made of Mr. Phillips at New York City at which time he advised that he had neither an office nor a secretary in Dallas, and that his secretaries in New York and Bartlesville have not been in Dallas.

3. Miss May B. Conley is the confidential secretary to Mr. Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, and has occupied that position since approximately 1911. She specifically advised an Agent of this Bureau on January 20, 1944 that she had never taken any paper from Mr. Ickes' safe or from among his private papers and given it to Mr. Briggs; that as a matter of fact, she has no access to Mr. Ickes' safe unless he is present, and would under no circumstances give private papers from Mr. Ickes' files or safe without his personal orders. She advised she had never seen the so-called "Hopkins letter" before seeing a copy of it printed in the newspaper, and that Mr. Ickes never discussed the question of the letter with her and therefore could never have given her authority to give any such thing to Mr. Briggs.

Miss Ellen Downs, receptionist and secretary to Mr. Ickes, also categorically denied giving any such letter to Mr. Briggs.

4. On January 20, 1944 Mr. Gerald N. Movius, secretary to Honorable Gerald P. Nye, was interviewed concerning his knowledge of the letter allegedly written by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Humphrey Lee on August 17, 1943.

Mr. Movius stated he had known Mr. C. Nelson Sparks for about three years, has a great deal of faith in him, and has had confidence in what Mr. Sparks has told him. He also advised, without solicitation, that he, Movius, had rewritten about 60% of the book entitled "One Man - Wendell Willkie" from manuscripts furnished him by Mr. Sparks, that the latter had written about 40% of the book, and that Mr. George N. Briggs had written about 2,000 words covering the incident with regard to the Stassen-Coles matter therein. He advised that during the time the manuscript of the book was in preparation, he "kept nagging" Mr. Sparks for the original Hopkins letter and that Sparks informed him that George N. Briggs had told him, Sparks, that the document was in the possession of the Secretary of the Interior. Finally, about three weeks prior to this interview on January 20, 1944, he had lunch with C. Nelson Sparks at the Carroll Arms Hotel, Washington, D. C., and made inquiry of Mr. Sparks concerning the authenticity and origin of the questioned "Hopkins letter." At that time Mr. Sparks took from his coat pocket the instant letter which he stated he had received from George N. Briggs and showed it to Mr. Movius, and at that time he noted what appeared to be erasures of penciled handwriting in the upper right-hand corner. He was advised by Mr. Sparks that Mr. Briggs had told him that the erased penciled handwriting was that of Dr. Humphrey Lee and that the words erased were, "Dear Frank: That is the meaning of this? (signed) Humphrey." Mr. Movius stated he believed the "Frank" referred to in the letter was Mr. Frank Phillips of the Phillips Petroleum Corporation.

Mr. Movius denied any other knowledge as to the background and origin of the letter here under consideration.

Mr. Movius advised as of possible interest in this matter that Mr. Sparks had informed him that George N. Briggs had furnished to him, Sparks, a letter from Mrs. Robert A. Taft concerning a dinner party given by Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Reid in New York City which he understands Mrs. Taft has acknowledged to be genuine and which letter appears in the book entitled "One Man - Wendell Willkie."

Memorandum for Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

Mr. Novius stated that he first met George H. Briggs through Mr. Sparks in July, 1942, and had seen Mr. Briggs about five times since that meeting. He advised that his personal interest now in this entire matter is to protect his professional reputation as a writer inasmuch as he has written a number of articles for the Saturday Evening Post and he feels he will no longer be able to contribute to this magazine and other periodicals in the event his connection with the book "One Man - Wendell Willkie" is made public and it is established the questioned letter was not written by Harry Hopkins.

As set forth at the beginning of this communication, the investigations referred to herein complete the handling requested in your memorandum dated January 12, 1944.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Attachments

JHM:mfd:FFS

RE: GEORGE N. BRIGGS
Personnel File Records

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/30/85 BY [redacted]
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The personnel file of George N. Briggs at the United States Department of the Interior disclosed the following data:

The application for employment dated August 22, 1941, indicated Briggs was living at 2234 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota; that he was born May 6, 1886, at Dixon, Illinois; that his legal residence was the State of Minnesota; and that he lived in that state from April, 1916, to August, 1941. He stated he had never before been employed by the United States Government, had no relatives in the Government, and had never been arrested for any crime or misdemeanor.

In reply to a question as to what he was particularly well qualified for, he answered, "editorial writing, speech writing, analytical studies, research, legislative and governmental studies", and under a question regarding his experience he replied, "for 17 years my experience was confined exclusively to newspaper offices where I ran the gamut of jobs -- rewrite man, copy reader, desk man, general assignment reporter, special writer, Sunday feature writer, editorial and political writer. During that time I became adept at makeup and layout. The following 18 years were spent in building a legislative bureau that served its clients the year round and made available to them instant information concerning past or coming legislation. I had for clients such representative firms as General Mills, Great Northern Railway, U. S. Steel Corporation, Cream of Wheat Corporation; the leading banks, insurance offices, legal firms, etc. During that time I conducted campaigns for or against issues -- charter amendments, etc. -- wrote speeches, prepared advertising copy, issued legal bulletins and booklets, etc. I recently disposed of the bureau that I might be free to move east."

On August 25, 1941, Briggs was offered an appointment as an Information Specialist at \$4000 per annum in the office of the Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense. His duties as set out in the job specifications were to be "under general supervision with unusual latitude for independent work, to serve as a consultant to the Director of Information in connection with the distribution of information with reference to the activities of the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator and the role of petroleum and its products in the national defense program; to write and edit articles and news releases for publication in journals, magazines, and newspapers; to write and edit pamphlets and similar informational material and to perform such other duties as may be required."

The file reflects that Briggs entered on duty as of August 27, 1941, and took the oath of office on August 29, 1941. On September 3, 1941, the Harrington Hotel wrote the Department of the Interior and explained that Briggs had cashed three checks which had been returned marked "account garnished." He was reprimanded for this by the Interior Department and explained that his bank account at St. Paul had been sufficient to handle these checks but that it had been tied up unexpectedly in "a piece of business litigation over which I had no control."

In his application, Mr. Briggs listed as references: Charles J. Moos, Vice President, Joyce Insurance Company, St. Paul; Frank Gannett, Publisher, Times Union, Rochester, New York; Elmer F. Blu, General Counsel, Oliver Mining Company, 700 Holvin Building, Duluth, Minnesota; C. L. Ames, Treasurer, West Publishing Company, St. Paul; V. J. Michaelson, Lawyer, 300 Minnesota Building, St. Paul.

On November 24, 1941, letters were addressed to Michaelson, Blu, Ames and Moos, requesting information concerning Briggs. There is no record of a letter being sent to Mr. Frank Gannett. Under date of December 1, 1941, Blu acknowledged the inquiry on the stationery of the Oliver Mining Company of Duluth as follows:

"This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 24, 1941, relative to the above matter.

"I have known Mr. George N. Briggs, formerly of St. Paul, Minnesota, for at least 25 years, and during all that time he was engaged in newspaper publicity work involving the dissemination of information relating to political and other matters.

"Mr. Briggs is thoroughly dependable, possesses excellent character and stands well throughout the State of Minnesota, and I consider that he has, to a very high degree, the qualities you specify as essential to the performance of his duties in the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense."

Under date of December 11, 1941, Mr. Ames replied as follows:

"Your letter of the 24th inquiring about George N. Briggs recently appointed to a position in the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense was received during my absence in the East, and I have not had an earlier opportunity to reply to it. It was addressed to me as Treasurer of the West Publishing Company but I am replying to it on my own letterhead because my true knowledge of Mr. Briggs' work was derived in other connections than those of company business.

"In my opinion, Mr. Briggs is a natural-born propagandist writer with genuine natural gifts for that kind of work, and he has developed them in many fields of journalistic and political writing. I do not use the word propagandist in a derogatory or unpleasant sense. I know I have met very few people who seem to me to possess a keener sense of what will or will not appeal to the public mind, especially in the political field, or who can do more effective political writing.

"Naturally he has the 'defects of his virtues' and could not possibly be classed as a research man in the proper sense of that term. I have no doubt that you will find that where Mr. Briggs is provided with sound and accurate information, he can do an extremely good job of writing up and editing such material for publication."

The personnel file fails to reflect that the other references acknowledged the letters of inquiry. Under date of January 19, 1942, a notation appeared in the file to the effect that Secretary Ickes had personally selected Mr. Briggs as his assistant to succeed Mr. Milburn P. Akers who had resigned. On February 1, 1942, Briggs' salary was raised to \$1800 and on June 1, 1942, to \$2112. Under his last job classification as Assistant to the Secretary, the following is stated:

"Under very general supervision to perform a variety of special and/or confidential assignments for the Secretary of the Interior, involving the making of appropriate contacts with the public, members of Congress, officials of other Government departments and agencies, and preparing recommendations to the Secretary relative to these assignments. To personally perform special research work and original writing in connection with the preparation of the Secretary's major speeches, manuscripts etc. and to make an editorial review of important material prepared for the Secretary by the various bureaus of the Department. This review is not only for style and composition but includes the responsibility for reporting accuracy and relevancy of statements, as well as conformance to policy and significance of presentation. To accompany the Secretary on field trips and rendering general assistance as required."

In the memorandum from Mr. Tom C. Clark, Assistant Attorney General, dated January 19, 1944, the names of C. Nelson Sparks and A. T. Jones are mentioned as references. These names do not appear in the application blank of the Department of the Interior. However, in the United States Civil Service Commission application form filed in 1941, the names of C. Nelson Sparks and A. T. Jones do appear. It was determined, however, that no action was taken by the Civil Service Commission to secure statements from these references.

JKM:mod
tr 1-20-44

Re: GEORGE H. BRIGGS

COURT RECORD

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

A search of the records of the State and Federal Courts at Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, disclosed only the following actions against George H. Briggs.

Records of the Ramsey County District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, reflect a suit filed by the Globe Oil and Refining Company, Plaintiff, vs. George H. Briggs, Defendant, in the amount of \$58.28 on account of goods sold and delivered by Plaintiff to Defendant at his request between November 16, 1940, and January 3, 1941. This case was dismissed September 16, 1941, by the Attorney for the Plaintiff.

In the same Court the records reflect a suit filed July 7, 1942, by the State of Minnesota vs. George H. Briggs under the Minneapolis Employment and Security Act for wages in the amount of \$250.43, payable by the Defendant for employment from May 1, 1937, to November 1, 1940, at the rate of six per cent from November 1, 1940. A summons and complaint were filed, but no disposition is recorded and the matter remains in a pending status in the Clerk of Court's docket.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

A search of the Court records in Washington, D. C., disclosed the following:

Longing:

In the Civil Division of the Municipal Court, under docket number 417,233, a suit was filed by the Midland Hills Country Club, a corporation, 356 Broadway, St. Paul, Minnesota, Plaintiff, against George H. Briggs, care of the Department of the Interior, 15th and H Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C. A complaint was filed January 4, 1943, consisting of an affidavit of merit dated November 16, 1942, at St. Paul, Minnesota, by L. J. Byers, Secretary and Treasurer of Midland Hills Country Club, stating that George H. Briggs was justly indebted to the Plaintiff in the sum of \$119.40, with interest from January 1, 1940. The particulars of the demand were "for dues, professional charges and equipment usage owing Plaintiff by the Defendant." The Plaintiff's Attorney was Warren E. Miller, 1343 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Holson, Ram
S. A.
Clegg
Conroy
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
A. Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Humphord
Quinn
Nease
Gandy

62-74466-169

A summons in this action was served upon the defendant Briggs on January 9, 1943, by Deputy U. S. Marshal G. Smith, demanding Briggs' appearance in Court on January 18, 1943. An affidavit in compliance with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, dated February 10, 1943, was filed on June 9, 1943, by the Plaintiff's Attorney, stating that the Defendant was not in the military service of the United States but was an assistant to the Secretary of the Interior. A pencilled note on the face of this affidavit states that it is insufficient. The file contains no appearance either by the Defendant or by an Attorney for him. There has been no judgment entered against Briggs in this action because the affidavit of compliance with the Soldiers' Relief Act of 1940 was insufficient and has never been revised. Consequently, there has been no judgment entered in this action.

* * * * *

Under Docket Number 424,754 in the Civil Division of the Municipal Court, the Time Loan Company, a corporation, Guardian Building, 86 East Fourth Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, brought suit against George H. Briggs, employed at the Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Room 5138, Washington, D. C. In this action, a complaint and bill of particulars were filed on December 2, 1943, for a balance due in the amount of \$350.53, as of July 22, 1943, on a note, plus interest until paid, from July 22, 1943, at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent per month and costs. An affidavit of such indebtedness was signed by B. J. Lamban, President of the corporation. Enclosed in the file is a note showing Loan No. 5155 dated June 20, 1941, at St. Paul, Minnesota, signed by George Briggs for a loan in the amount of \$300.00 granted Briggs by the Time Loan Company and secured by a second mortgage on a 1941 Chrysler, a first mortgage on a 1936 Pontiac and signed by a guarantor named "A. S. Melin." The note specified that the \$300.00 was to be paid in twenty equal installments of \$18.98 each, first installment due on July 15, 1941, and others due on the fifteenth of each month thereafter until the final installment on February 15, 1943, including interest on the unpaid balance at 2 1/2 per cent per month if the unpaid balance was \$150.00 or less, and 2 per cent per month on any balance in excess of \$150.00.

The Plaintiff's Attorney in this action was Milton Lum, Colorado Building, 14th and O Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C., telephone RE 6277.

The summons in this action was served on the Defendant on December 11, 1943, by Deputy U. S. Marshal G. F. Keller, demanding Defendant's appearance in Court on December 16, 1943.

The file contained an affidavit dated December 20, 1943, by Betty Ann Ekin, filed December 22, 1943, in compliance with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940.

The file revealed no appearance by the Defendant or an Attorney in his behalf, and, accordingly, on December 22, 1943, a judgment by default was entered for the Plaintiff for the sum of \$250.53 with interest at 2 1/2 per cent per month from July 22, 1943, to date and interest at 6 per cent per annum from date plus costs. This judgment was rendered by Judge Claggett. To date, there has been no attempt to levy execution on this judgment.

* * * * *

Under Docket Number 19,500 of the Civil Division of the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, an action was started by Edwin S. Bingham, Jr., against George H. Briggs. The Attorney for the Plaintiff is Henry J. Fox, 213 Standard Oil Building, Washington, D. C. The Complaint was an endorsement on a promissory note. A review of the papers filed in this action revealed that the complaint was filed on May 22, 1943, wherein it was stated that the Defendant on October 12, 1939, executed and delivered to Edwin S. Binswanger, also known as Edwin S. Bingham, a promissory note, that Defendant made several payments totalling \$1,000 on said note, the last payment having been made on December 10, 1940, that on October 15, 1941, Edwin S. Bingham endorsed the note over to Edwin S. Bingham, Jr.; the Plaintiff, whereupon judgment was demanded for \$6,315.00 with interest, costs and reasonable Attorneys' fee less the \$1,000.00 already paid on the note. The note was attached as an exhibit. It is dated October 12, 1939, at St. Paul, Minnesota, and reads as follows:

"I promise to pay to the order of Edwin S. Binswanger, of St. Paul, Minnesota, at the office of James H. Thomas, 1015 Pioneer Building, St. Paul, Minnesota, the sum of \$6,315.00 as follows: \$300.00 on November 20, 1939, and the

balance in monthly installments of \$100.00 each, the first due on January 1, 1940, and on the first of each month thereafter until paid. To bear interest at 6 per cent per annum payable on the 12th of October of each year commencing October 12, 1940."

The address of Edwin S. Singham, Jr., Plaintiff in instant action, is shown as 3225 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

On June 15, 1943, the Defendant Briggs and Plaintiff's Attorney entered a stipulation for settlement of the claim for \$3,000.00, to be paid by the Defendant to Fox, Plaintiff's Attorney, at 213 Standard Oil Building, Washington, D. C., on August 1, 1943, and in the event of a default, there was an agreement to have judgment entered forthwith against the Defendant. The Defendant defaulted under this agreement and did not answer the complaint, whereupon a judgment rendered by Judge P. Dickinson Letts was filed on October 25, 1943, in favor of the Plaintiff, in the amount of \$6,635.56, which sum represents the unpaid balance on the principal of a note in the amount of \$5,315.00, and the unpaid balance on said note from October 12, 1939, to October 21, 1943, in the amount of \$1,320.56, besides attorneys' fees for \$650.00 and costs.

On November 26, 1943, an attachment was served by Deputy U. S. Marshal Edward J. McElroy on Harold L. Jones as garnishes for \$7,265.56 with interest from October 25, 1943.

On November 29, 1943, Mr. Jones returned an answer to interrogatories, stating that he was not at the time of service of the return or at any time since, indebted to the Defendant, and that he did not have in his possession or in his charge any goods, chattels or credits of the Defendant.

In supplementary proceedings to collect the judgment, a subpoena duces tecum was served on Briggs on December 17, 1943, directing Briggs to appear before Frederick Steinbo, a notary public, at Room 213, Standard Oil Building, 261 Constitution Avenue, and produce all his books, papers, records and documents for the year prior to December 24, 1943.

On December 23, 1940, a stipulation was entered between the Attorney for the Plaintiff and the Attorneys for the Defendant in supplementary proceedings to January 17, 1944. The names of the Defendant's Attorneys are Richard T. Calisher and Tom J. McGrath.

KCHD MM
1/20/44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/30/85 BY

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS

Records available at the Interior Department reveal the following long distance telephone calls made by George W. Briggs from that point:

Date Called	Person Called	Address of Person to Whom Call Made and Telephone Number	Character of Call
9-13-43	Charles Colebaugh	c/o Colliers Magazine New York, Eldorado 55200	Official
9-15-43 2:29 pm	C. Nelson Sparks	Tudor Hotel New York	Personal Call Cancelled
10-17-43	Colliers Magazine	New York	Personal
10-22-43 12:55 pm	Mr. Sparks	Murray Hill 43900-938 New York City	Charges Reversed
10-27-43	Colliers Magazine	New York	Personal
10-27-43 11:51 am (No person named)		University 7137 Akron, Ohio	Charges Reversed
10-29-43	Mr. Field This Week Magazine	New York	Personal
10-29-43 11:30 am (No person named)		University 7137 Akron, Ohio	Charges Reversed
10-30-43	Dr. Gruber	Foxcroft 99523 New York	Official
11-4-43	Mr. O'Connell This Week Magazine	Lexington 22100 New York City	Official
11-5-43 4:04 pm	Mr. Sparks	Murray Hill 43900 New York	Charges Reversed
11-8-43	Mr. Field	Lexington 22100 New York City	Official
11-23-43	J. P. Foster	Hancock 1250 Boston	Charges Reversed

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Tracy _____
Akers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Stark _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

62-27446-169

<u>Date Called</u>	<u>Person Called</u>	<u>Address of Person to Whom Call Made and Telephone Number</u>	<u>Character of Call</u>
11-29-43	J. Paul Poster	Chamber of Commerce Boston	Official
11-29-43 (call apparently not completed until 10:24 am, 11-30-43)	C. Nelson Sparks	Murray Hill 43900 Tudor Hotel New York	Charges Reversed
11-30-43	Mr. Field	Lexington 22100 New York City	Charges Reversed
12-6-43 8:56 am (This call is reportedly being suspended as an officially chargeable call and has not been paid as yet)	C. Nelson Sparks	Murray Hill 43900 Hotel Tudor New York City	Official
12-6-43	Mr. Field This Week Magazine	Lexington 22100 New York City	Official
12-7-43	Mr. Field This Week Magazine	Lexington 22100 New York City	Official
12-13-43	Mr. Field This Week Magazine	Lexington 22100 New York City	Official
12-13-43	Mr. Field This Week Magazine	Lexington 22100 New York City	Official
12-16-43	C. S. Kidd	Manager, McKellar and Platts New York	Official
1-6-44 2:02 pm	C. Nelson Sparks	Tudor Hotel New York	Cancelled

With regard to the calls at 11:51 am on 10-27-43 and 11:30 am on 10-29-43, the Interior records do not show the name of the individual called. However, it is known that University 7137, Akron, Ohio, is the residence phone number of C. Nelson Sparks at that point.

J. K. LINTFORD:VK
tr. 1/20/44

Re: GEORGE N. BRIGGS

Work Record September 27, 1943, to October 9, 1943.

For the purpose of determining whether Mr. Briggs was present in his office and to establish that he had made no distant trips during the captioned period, a check was made of the available records at his office. It was found that the Department of Interior files are not set up in such a manner that an ordinary search would determine whether Mr. Briggs had written any letters during the thirteen day period in interest. However, a spot check was made of the general files and the records of Miss Ellen Downs, receptionist and secretary to Mr. Harold Ickes, with the following results:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Saw Secretary Ickes</u>	<u>Reviewed Letters for Secretary Ickes and Initialed Same</u>
9-27-43	Twice.	Yes.
9-28-43	Once.	Yes.
9-29-43	Twice.	Yes.
9-30-43	No.	Yes.
10-1-43	Once.	Yes.
10-2-43 (Sat.)	No.	No.
10-3-43 (Sun.)	No.	No.
10-4-43	No.	Yes.
10-5-43	No.	Yes.
10-6-43	No.	Yes.
10-7-43	Once.	Yes.
10-8-43	Once.	Yes.
10-9-43	No.	Yes.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/20/2009

b6
b7C

169

J. E. HUMPHORD:VK

Re: [redacted] - Informant

b7D

[redacted]
[redacted] New York City, [redacted]
[redacted] He was interviewed on January 20, 1977, concerning his
knowledge of [redacted] specifically
[redacted]

b7D

[redacted] advised that early in [redacted] he was introduced
[redacted] friend and at that time [redacted] discussed
with him [redacted] He stated he became friendly
with [redacted] inasmuch as [redacted] and had common
acquaintances. He advised that at that time he knew nothing of [redacted]
political background and although [redacted] mentioned [redacted]
[redacted], he paid little or no attention to these explanations
because he trusted him and believed in his integrity.

b7D

[redacted] advised that an attorney by the name of [redacted]
[redacted] New York City.
[redacted] that as a consequence [redacted]
[redacted]

b7D

With reference to [redacted] in answer to
specific inquiry, [redacted] advised that [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]
[redacted] stated he recalled no details as to where these individuals reportedly [redacted]
[redacted] that, in fact, he just accepted the
story at its face value, since his only concern was [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] advised that [redacted]
[redacted]

b7D

Upon being questioned concerning [redacted] said
[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 8-20-80 BY [redacted]

[redacted]

b7D

stated he did not know to whom [redacted] could have been referring by
[redacted] went on to explain that

[redacted]

advised him that the cause was [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] specifically stated that [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] advised that he, himself, had never had any contact with
[redacted] although he knew of him. He stated that [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] stated he received only a

[redacted]

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

TCC:GMS:MRR

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER,
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Alleged Harry Hopkins' letter to
Dr. Humphrey Lee, dated August 17, 1943.

A careful review has been made of [redacted]

b3

[redacted] Conferences have also been held between Mr. George N. Briggs, an employee of the Department of Interior, Mr. Henry Schweinhaut and Mr. G. Maynard Smith, of the Criminal Division; and also a conference between Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes and Mr. Henry Schweinhaut. [redacted] and as a result of the conferences held, it would appear that specific investigative requests should be made and it is therefore suggested that these leads be followed:

In regard to George N. Briggs

1. The personnel record should be checked and reviewed. It is noted from your memorandum of January 14, 1944, that Mr. Briggs gave as references C. Nelson Sparks, Frank Gannett, Charles J. Moss, Elmer Blu, and A. T. Jones. A review of the information given by references concerning Mr. Briggs should be made.

2. The leave record of Mr. Briggs should be checked, listing all leave taken subsequent to August 1, 1943.

3. In your memorandum of January 14, 1944, you advise that Mr. Briggs has had two law suits filed against him in the District since 1941 and that his credit record is very poor. It is suggested that a brief of the law suit should be made, setting out the charges claimed in the case. Also the law suits filed against him in St. Paul, Minnesota, should be briefed.

4. Mr. Briggs' secretary should be interviewed. According to the testimony of C. Nelson Sparks, Mr. Briggs has had more than one secretary since August 1st and an effort should be made to ascertain who his secretaries were, and each should be interviewed.

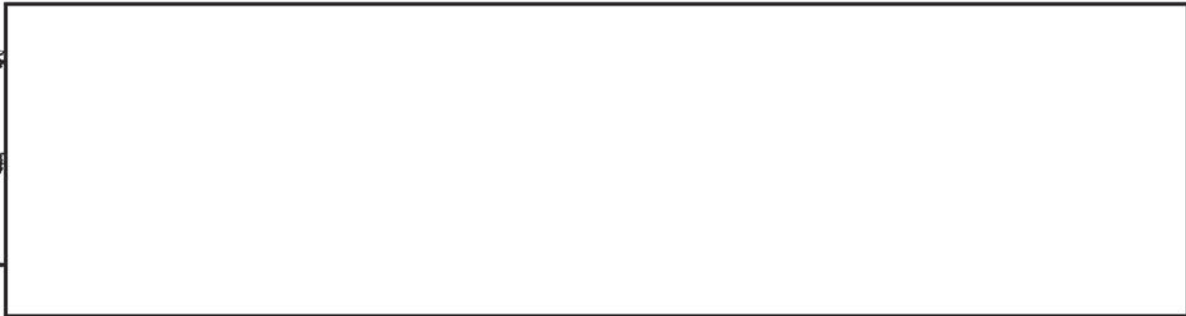


33 JAN 25 1944

Give all immediate attention
so case will not be held up
& changed to FBI.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

33 JAN 25 1944



Home
W.F.O.
N.Y.
1/19/44

b7D
1/19/44

7. The leading hotels in Dallas, Texas, should be checked to ascertain if George N. Briggs was a guest between the dates September 27th and October 10th, 1943.

✓ Dallas
Franklin
Admiral

8. The files of the Department of Interior should be examined to ascertain, if possible, whether or not any work was done or letters written by George N. Briggs between the dates of September 27th and October 9th, 1943.

✓ Department
Admiral

9. Mr. Briggs' creditors who held liens on his home in Washington, D.C., should be interviewed to see if Mr. Briggs made any payments or had any other transactions personally or by telephone between the dates of September 27th and October 9th, 1943.

✓ W.F.O.
Home
Admiral

10. The records of the typewriters used by Mr. Briggs in his office in the Interior Building should be checked and a sample taken of all typewriters used in Briggs' office for the past four months.

✓ Department
Admiral

} Done

11. It should be ascertained, if possible, whether or not Mr. Briggs has a typewriter in his home and if so, a sample should be taken from this typewriter.

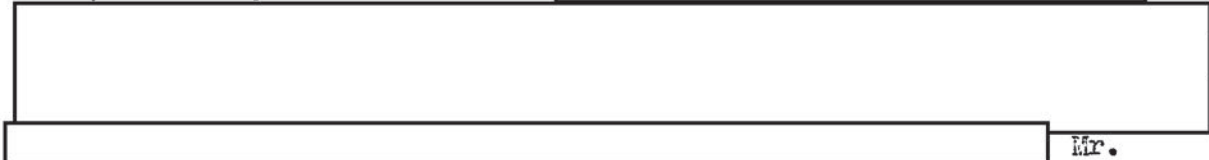
✓

} Done

Miscellaneous Investigation

1. The Rayner Printing Company in New York City published the book, "One Man, Wendell Willkie."

b3



✓ Connelly N.Y.

Mr. Rayner should be interviewed concerning his knowledge of the letter and the substantiating documents.

2. The secretary, or secretaries, of Mr. Frank Phillips, of the Phillips Petroleum Company, should be interviewed and statements taken as to whether or not they have any information about the alleged Hopkins'

✓ Connelly

letter. According to Mr. Sparks, Mr. Phillips' secretary arranged an interview between George N. Briggs and Dr. Umphrey Lee in Dallas, Texas, in order that Dr. Lee might show Mr. Briggs the alleged Hopkins' letter. (This was denied completely by Dr. Lee. Mr. Frank Phillips also advises he does not have a Dallas office).

Burton 3. According to Mr. Sparks, Secretary Ickes' secretary delivered the alleged Hopkins' letter to Briggs from the safe or private papers of Secretary Ickes. Mr. Sparks thinks the secretary was named Miss Connolly. Miss Connolly should be interviewed concerning this point, or if the name "Connolly" is not correct, then the secretary of Mr. Ickes should be interviewed, whoever she is.

✓ *Hennrich*
advised
1/19/44 4. Mr. George Movius, secretary to Senator Nye, stated to me in a telephone conversation that he knew for a fact that the notations on the alleged Hopkins' letter in the righthand corner were made by Dr. Lee, and expressed himself as having other positive information concerning the letter. It is suggested that Mr. Movius be interviewed as to his knowledge of the letter.

Respectfully,

TC
TOM C. CLARK,
Assistant Attorney General.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/20/86 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOM C. CLARK
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: C. NELSON SPAIN

In the course of the inquiry made amongst lien holders on the subject's home in accordance with the request contained in your memorandum dated January 19, 1944, certain information showing the financial pressure under which George N. Briggs has been operating was revealed. In the thought that those data would be of interest and possibly of some value to you, the following is being set out:

George N. Briggs bought the residence at Falls Church at 226 West Broad Street on August 17, 1942, for a total purchase price of \$17,850. He paid \$500 down on this property and executed a second trust to Edwin H. Rosengarten of Rosengarten, Hick & Davis Construction Firm, Metropolitan Bank Building, Washington, D. C. in the amount of \$4,300, half of which was to be due in December, 1942, and the balance in February, 1943.

The home was purchased through the Colonial Realty Company, Arlington, Virginia, and Mr. John J. Loflin of that concern states Briggs attempted to borrow the balance of the purchase price through the Columbia Federal Savings and Loan Company, 716-11th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. This concern refused to loan the entire amount needed, the consequence being that it was necessary for Briggs to either raise approximately \$2,000 in cash or obtain a loan for this amount from some other source. The approximate \$2,000 was finally obtained in the form of a loan from one Mr. F. M. Weiman to the credit of whom Briggs and his wife executed two notes of \$1,075 each, the first to be paid within thirty days and the second to be paid within sixty days. In order to protect Weiman in this regard, Loflin of the Colonial Realty Company endorsed the notes.

Briggs never made any interest or principal payments on the notes made out to Weiman according to Mr. Loflin, and as a result Weiman signed the notes over to Loflin who in turn filed suit in Fairfax County on February 24, 1943, for collection. The court records in this matter were checked and it was found that in suit number 2231 in Fairfax County Circuit Court a judgment was granted on these notes in the amount of \$2,150 plus interest at 6% from August 17, 1942 and attorneys' fees of \$15.

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Mohr
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

RECORDED
INDEXED
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JAN 25 1944
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Loflin states that the above judgment was not satisfied and as a result the Colonial Realty Company placed an attachment on the Falls Church home in Falls Church shortly after the judgment was obtained in the Briggs' not settled until the sale of the property to a new owner was consummated on November 10, 1943. At the time the loan was originally made from Weisman, Briggs had stated that he would be able to pay it within the stipulated time since he had two months of that date he expected to obtain royalties from a book which he had written for Mr. Ickes. These royalties evidently never materialized and in this regard Mr. Loflin furnished a letter which he received from Briggs. A copy of this is being attached.

b7D

It finally became necessary for Briggs to sell his Falls Church home in order to liquidate the debts against it. This sale was consummated to one John McC. Holmes on November 10, 1943. Mr. Loflin of the Colonial Realty Company furnished a carbon of the settlement sheet relating to this sale and I am transmitting herewith a copy of this to you.

As an additional item of interest and as of possible pertinence in connection with [redacted]

[redacted] it was noted in the investigation reflected above that the following item

b7D

appears on the reverse side of each of the notes given by Briggs to Mr. F. H. Weiman, which notes were subsequently signed over to Mr. John J. Loflin of the Colonial Realty Company:

"In the event that anything should happen to me, the undersigned, before this note is satisfied, I hereby direct Harold L. Ickes to pay the unsatisfied portion from any moneys due me from him personally; but should the amount due from this source be insufficient to pay in full the unsatisfied portion of the note, I hereby direct my wife, Mollie W. Briggs, to satisfy the amount in full from any moneys received from insurance or other sources." Signed "George W. Briggs, witnessed by John J. Loflin." This was dated "August 17, 1942."

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

RFG:MEC
62-4792

Washington 25, D. C.
January 24, 1944

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-13-85 BY [redacted]

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
ON 9-30-85

b6
b7C

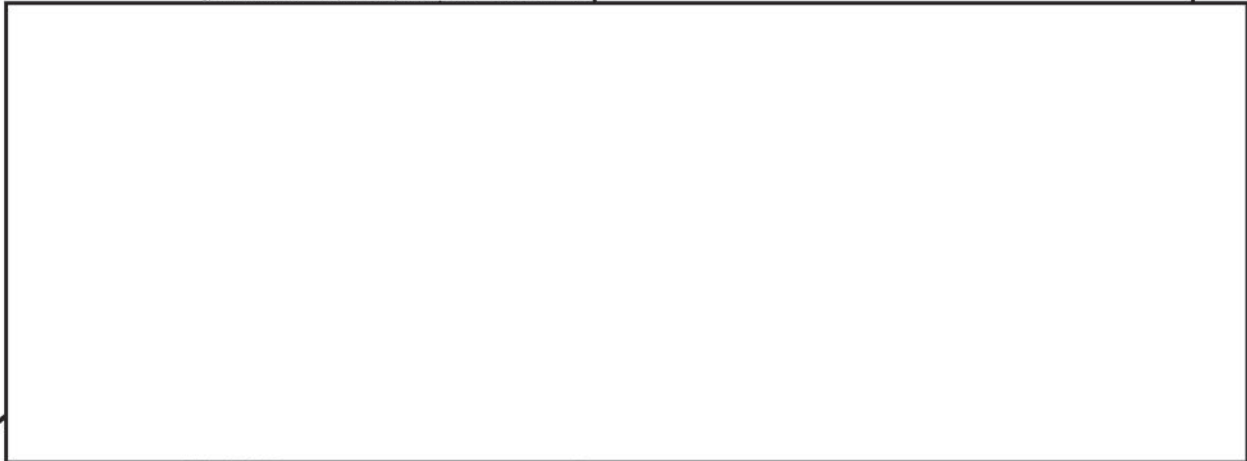
Re: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter dated January 20, 1944, in
the above matter, in regard to [redacted] desired in the above
case.

b7D

Please be advised that on [redacted]



*The lack of these
will by no means be
fatal, not worth possibly
aggravating can suggest at W.H. to
have further search made -*

Very truly yours,

Guy Hottel
GUY HOTTEL
SAO

RECORDED

1-3-74-171
F B I
33 JAN 25 1944

(5) - 9-1-12

62 JAN 26 1944 59



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 24, 1944

MEMORANDUM LABORATORY REPORT

Re: George N. Briggs; Harry L. Hopkins,
Victim - Misc. (Possible Violation of
District of Columbia Statutes Pro-
hibiting Forging and Uttering of Docu-
ments to the Injury of Another)

SUMMARY REPORT

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E.A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starnes _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

1. Is The Paper Genuine Stationery?

The paper was compared with specimens of the supplies of stationery in the office of Mr. Hopkins. These were labeled:

1. Present supply
2. June 1943
3. May 1943
4. December 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted] b6 b7c

In every instance the questioned letter is different in physical characteristics from these specimens from Mr. Hopkins' office. The embossed letterhead for instance is a different length and different printing form.

The questioned paper was compared with samples of supplies stated to have been obtained from the office of George N. Briggs. The embossed printing was found to match perfectly showing that the questioned letterhead was printed from the same printing form or die. There are some minor differences in physical characteristics such as occur in different packages of supplies. If samples of the same package could be found, this can be shown by the physical characteristics.

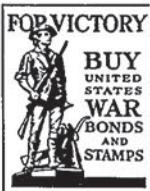
2. Is the Letter Written on the Typewriter of Mr. Hopkins?

It was concluded that the typewriting on the questioned letter was not written on the typewriter in the office of Mr. Harry Hopkins. It was concluded that the typewriting on the questioned letter was written on an Underwood typewriter, Serial M5229119-11, reported to be in the outer office or reception room of George N. Briggs.

It was concluded that the letters from Briggs to Sparks listed on the attached summary and indicated by a number sign (#) were written on the Underwood typewriter, Serial #4282905-11, said to be in the private office of George N. Briggs.

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44 NOV 9 1964



62 JAN 25 1944

RECORDED 163-2441-172
JAN 25 1944

3. Who wrote the letter?

No conclusion can be drawn as to this at the present time since permission has not yet been granted to treat the letter for latent fingerprints.

An examination of the personal typing habits of the writer was made bearing in mind of course the fact that such an examination is successful only when the writing habits are so unusual as to furnish strong evidence because of the peculiarities of the writer.

The questioned letter differs from letters prepared by employees of Mr. Hopkins in the following ways:

1. The typing is not properly spaced on the page, the margins to the left and right being too small, whereas in the known standards the writings are arranged artistically and spaced on the page.
2. The name "Harry L. Hopkins" is not typed under the signature.
3. Spaces are not used after the commas.

The questioned letter is similar to the Briggs-Sparks correspondence, written on the typewriter in the personal office of Mr. Briggs, in the following ways:

1. In the letters of Mr. Briggs, commas are not followed by spaces.
2. The spacing of the typewriting on the page in the letters of Mr. Briggs is similar to that in the questioned.

To summarize, no conclusion can be reached as to the writer of the questioned letter because the evidence is not sufficiently numerous, such evidence as is present being similar to that of the writer of the Briggs-Sparks letters and different from that of the letters prepared for Mr. Hopkins.

4. Is the Signature "Harry Hopkins" Genuine?

It was concluded that the signature "Harry Hopkins" on the questioned letter is a copy of a genuine signature of the writer of the signatures on the known standards, the checks of Harry L. Hopkins and the letters from the files of the FBI. It was concluded that in copying the signature no attempt was made to produce an exact replica as would result from tracing or a carefully drawn signature. On the contrary, the letters "a" and "r" were carefully made in their usual form so that it would be clear that the word is "Harry". One reason for doing this would be to make sure that anyone unfamiliar with the signature of Mr. Hopkins would recognize the name, Mr. Hopkins' signature being so deformed so that the letters or spelling of the word are not legible.

5. Who Wrote the Briggs-Sparks Letters and Telegrams?

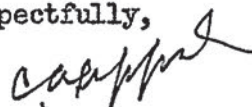
A comparison was made between the known standards of handwriting of George N. Briggs and the Briggs-Sparks letters and telegrams. The conclusion was reached that the notes, signatures and writings on the Briggs-Sparks correspondence, which purport to be the signatures and notes of George N. Briggs, were written by the writer of the known standards said to have been obtained from George N. Briggs and that these signatures on the Briggs-Sparks letters are none of them forgeries or simulations of Briggs' signatures or writings.

The handlettering on the Civil Service Application form of George N. Briggs, the desk address book, the fingerprint card and the interlineations on the articles on coal were compared with the handlettering in the Briggs-Sparks correspondence, particularly the envelope, [redacted] addressed to C. Nelson Sparks and said to have been used to send the draft of the questioned letter also the telegram of May 5, 1943. The conclusion was reached that the envelope, [redacted] and the telegram of May 5, 1943 were prepared by the writer of the known lettering specimens, the Civil Service Application, fingerprint card, the interlineations on the articles on coal and the address book.

b3

A list of the specimens with symbols to indicate those identified as being written on the same typewriter or by the same person is transmitted herewith.

Respectfully,



C. A. Appel



Attachment
Memo Lab. Report
Page Four

QUESTIONED EVIDENCE

- * Q1 Original questioned letter typewritten on white paper bearing letterhead "The White House Washington", dated August 17, 1943, beginning, "Dear Umphrey: What has been done", bearing the questioned signature of Harry Hopkins. b3

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DATE 9/30/85 BY [REDACTED]

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Known Specimens

- K1 One checkbook of Harry L. Hopkins with cancelled checks from February to September 1943, each of which bears his known signature.

Correspondence from the files of the FBI bearing the known signature of Harry Hopkins listed as 66-8700-2-120, 100-95679-1 [REDACTED] 61-5381-1100.

b3
b7E

- / Three sheets of plain white paper bearing the known handwriting of George N. Briggs.
- @ One Civil Service Applicant Fingerprint card recorded "October 21, 1941 Ident Division 10", bearing the known signature of George N. Briggs, and bearing handprinting believed to be that of Briggs.
- @ One Civil Service Application form filled out by George N. Briggs dated October 24, 1941 and bearing his signature and handprinting believed to be his.
- @ One personal telephone and address directory bearing purported known handprinting of George N. Briggs.
- @ Two typewritten reports each entitled "Coal Trouble" by Harold Ickes and bearing purported known handprinting of George N. Briggs as correction marks on pages of these reports.

Attachment
Memo Lab. Report
Page Nine

Two sheets bearing the known typewriting specimens taken from typewriter from office of D. E. Krauss, Secretary to Mr. Harry L. Hopkins.

* Two sheets of paper bearing the known specimens taken from an Underwood, Serial M-5229119-11, from the reception room of Mr. George N. Briggs.

Eight envelopes and ten sheets of paper bearing the known specimens taken from an Underwood Standard Serial No. 4282905-11, taken from the inner office of Mr. George N. Briggs.

Six sheets of paper bearing the known typewriting specimens taken from an Underwood Standard Serial No. 3861780-5, taken from the home of George N. Briggs, Arlington, Virginia.

Four sheets of various types of letterhead stationery taken from the office of Harry Hopkins.

Ten sheets of paper from the United States Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington bearing the Department of Interior letterhead.

Four sheets of stationery bearing the letterhead "The White House, Washington" and two envelopes bearing the return address "The White House, Official Business" obtained from the office of George N. Briggs in the Department of the Interior.

Symbols

- * Typewriting identified as the work of one machine (Briggs' outer office).
- # Typewriting identified as the work of one machine (Briggs' inner office).
- @ Handlettering identified as that of one person (George N. Briggs).
- / Handwriting identified as that of one person (George N. Briggs).

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, N. Y.

EFF:RJP
62-8036

January 22, 1944

Director, FBI

ATTENTION: MR. MUMFORD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted] b6 b7C

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS;
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith two copies each of the memorandum
of Special Agent E. F. Coyle, which sets forth the information concerning [redacted] b7D

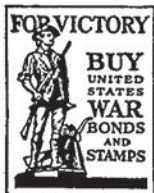
[redacted] and of the memorandum of Special Agent Edward M. Lane, covering a check made at
Dun & Bradstreet concerning GLENN W. BRIGGS, who is believed to be the brother of
GEORGE BRIGGS.

In accordance with the information telephonically furnished
to Mr. Mumford, I wish to advise that a check at the Credit Bureau of Greater New
York failed to reflect any information of value concerning GLENN W. BRIGGS and EDWARD
ACKLUND. However, a report dated 1941 at the Credit Bureau with regard to MARY JANE
MASON indicates that she was formerly married to Mr. R. A. MASON and, together with
GLENN W. BRIGGS, is a financial principle in the Bridge & Backgammon Club, presently
located on the second floor of the building at 31 West 51st Street. It further re-
flected that she has been connected with the club since 1937 and apparently derives
a good income therefrom. The report indicated that prior thereto she was a public
stenographer and at one time was the owner of small holdings in oil properties in
Oklahoma, which were apparently given to her by her husband, who is reported to be
in the oil business in Oklahoma.

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~
Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY, SAC

Enclosures



Op. 15

14 JAN 26 1944

62-74466-173

F B
33 JAN 26 1944

(5)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, N. Y.

EML:RJP
62-8036

January 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS;
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING

On January 22, 1944, the writer reviewed the records of Dun & Bradstreet on the Bridge & Backgammon Club, 31 West 51st Street, New York City. The report in the Dun & Bradstreet file is dated August 1, 1941 and reflects that the club is a social club and was formerly located at 11 West 51st Street, New York City.

According to the report, the Bridge & Backgammon Club was registered on September 24, 1937 by GLEN W. BRIGGS, 45 years of age, married, and a Mrs. MARY J. MASON, 45 years of age, divorced. The club occupies Room 201 at 31 West 51st Street, New York City.

BRIGGS is a United States citizen and in 1938 stated he had been variously employed as a free lance salesman. The club is private, having no regular paid membership. The bridge and backgammon devotees played here on a fee basis.

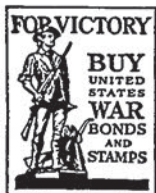
The investigator for Dun & Bradstreet could not gain admittance to the club rooms. However, he did interview GLEN W. BRIGGS, who stated that the furniture and equipment of the club were worth \$1500 and that the club has a following of about 500 bridge and backgammon fans, but that only 200 names on their rolls are active. The club does its banking at the National City Bank, 51st Street Branch.

No personal record on BRIGGS or MASON could be found in the files of Dun & Bradstreet.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

EDWARD M. LANE
Special Agent

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b7C



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ENCLOSURE

62-74466-173

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York 7, New York

EEC:AT
62-8036

January 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
MISCELLANEOUS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

Reference is made to the request of MR. J. E. MUMFORD of the
Bureau relative to [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

On August 5, 1943 the subject registered at the Hotel Tudor
and occupied Room 722. He gave his home address as 317 West Pleasant
Avenue, Syracuse, New York. He left the hotel on August 9, 1943.

b7D



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ENCLOSURE

62-14466-173

Memorandum
NY 62-8936

January 22, 1944

The subject registered at the hotel on September 11, 1943 and left the hotel on September 14, 1943.



b7D

The subject checked out of the hotel at 7 P.M. on October 8, 1943.

He registered on October 16, 1943 and checked out on October 22, 1943.



b7D

Memorandum
NY 62-8036

January 22, 1944

b7D

EUGENE F. COYLE
Special Agent

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM:VK

Call 11 a.m.

Transcribed 11:05 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. H. TAMM

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

ASAC Henrich of the Washington Field Office telephonically advised that when the Agent took back certain of the letters regarding the loan in the Briggs matter, he was informed by the real estate man that the law firm of Simmons and Culler in Washington, who represented the real estate agency in connection with the collections from Briggs, has in its possession a letter from Secretary Harold Ickes which refers to the financial plight of Briggs and which indicates that he is interested in helping him inasmuch as he acknowledges that he, Ickes, is indebted to Briggs. The date of the letter is not known.

Mr. Henrich inquired if the Bureau is interested in obtaining this letter. I told him we were not.



Respectfully,

33 JAN 26 1944

14 JAN 26 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/30/85 BY

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

1562-74466-174

RECORDED & INDEXED

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b7c

GED:MEW
62-4792

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

January 24, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

Director, FBI

Attention: Mr. D. M. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Washington Field Division letter dated January 17, 1944, setting forth the results of a physical surveillance on GEORGE N. BRIGGS, which was instituted pursuant to Bureau instructions. The following additional activity was noted through this same means:

At 11:00 a.m. on January 17, 1944, GEORGE N. BRIGGS left the law offices of FOX & POSNER in the Standard Oil Building, and returned by cab to the Department of Interior Building. At 1:50 p.m. he left this building in a cab and went to Room 987 at the National Press Building, this being the office of Mr. W. G. BIEDERMAN (C.S.B.), a Christian Science Practitioner. At 2:50 p.m. he returned in a cab to the Department of Interior Building where he got his automobile and went to Friends School on Wisconsin Avenue where he picked up his daughter and then returned to his residence at 3034 S. Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia.

Pursuant to Bureau instructions, Special Agents J. O. BISHOP and GEORGE E. DAVIS called upon BRIGGS at his home at approximately 4:00 p.m., and BRIGGS voluntarily consented to accompany Agents BISHOP and DAVIS to the Bureau to be interviewed by Bureau officials. It was noted that BRIGGS did not register much surprise when the Agents identified themselves, however, when he stepped inside Agents' car he made the remark, "I suppose this is in connection with the HOPKINS letter." He was advised by Agents that they did not know the exact nature of the matter.

Mr. BRIGGS was shown into the office of Mr. E. A. TAMM at the Bureau, at approximately 4:30 p.m. Following his visit there, he was driven back to his home where he voluntarily allowed Agents BISHOP and DAVIS to obtain typewriting specimens from his typewriter, this being an Underwood Standard Model bearing Serial #3861780-5, which Mr. BRIGGS described as having been rented from the Smith Typewriter Exchange which is located at 433 - 11th St., N. W., telephone Republic 8141. Agents left the BRIGGS home at approximately 10:30 p.m. The typewriting specimens were subsequently delivered to the Bureau.

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44 NOV 9 1964

11 JAN 26 1944

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-74466-175
F B I
33 JAN 26 1944

Director
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
January 24, 1944
62-4792

On January 18, 1944, BRIGGS remained at his home until approximately 1:00 p.m., at which time he left in his automobile. The night of this date he and his family remained at the home of his sister-in-law, Mrs. CLARE BRIGGS, at 4434 Hawthorne Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

On the afternoon of January 19, 1944, at 4:30 p.m., BRIGGS was observed proceeding from 4434 Hawthorne Street, N. W. in a 1941 green Oldsmobile Club Coupe bearing Virginia license plates #432-811, accompanied by a boy approximately sixteen years of age, to the Ice Palace on Connecticut Avenue, N. W. where he picked up his young daughter NANCY. They drove from this point back to 4434 Hawthorne St., N. W. where the entire party entered this residence. He remained inside throughout the night.

At 8:30 a.m. on January 20, 1944, BRIGGS was seen to leave 4434 Hawthorne Street, N. W. accompanied by his daughter NANCY, and they proceeded to the Friends School on Wisconsin Avenue where NANCY got out and went to school. BRIGGS returned to 4434 Hawthorne Street.

At 9:25 a.m. BRIGGS entered an automobile bearing Virginia license plates #432-811 and proceeded to the Kennedy Warren on Connecticut Avenue where he apparently saw Attorney GUSTAF LINDQUIST who is known to reside at this address. At 10:30 a.m. BRIGGS was observed to leave the Kennedy Warren and return to 4434 Hawthorne Street, N. W. where he remained until 11:00 a.m. when he, accompanied by a young woman and an elderly woman, apparently Mrs. CLARE BRIGGS, proceeded downtown where the elderly woman was observed to enter the medical building at 18th and Eye Streets, and BRIGGS and the younger woman proceeded to Union Station. BRIGGS was observed to leave the car, which was driven by the younger woman, and he purchased train tickets to New York City on the train leaving at 12:00 noon, January 20, 1944. Special Agents J. O. BISHOP and D. A. HRUSKA accompanied BRIGGS to New York City where he was turned over to New York Agents at the Pennsylvania Railroad Station.

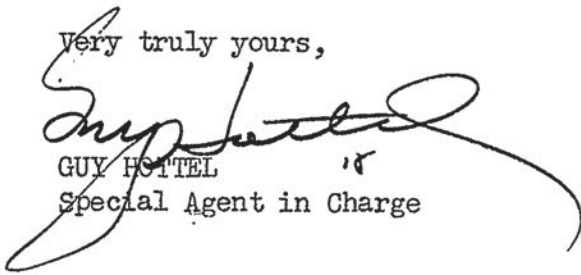
On January 22, 1944, it was observed that BRIGGS arrived at Union Station at 5:10 a.m. on B & O Train #511, carrying a briefcase. After getting something to drink at the station, he proceeded in a taxicab to 4434 Hawthorne Street, N. W., where he arrived at approximately 8:00 a.m., and within about ten minutes was observed leaving in his personally owned automobile bearing Virginia license plates #495-412, which he drove out of the garage at this residence. He proceeded to his home at 3034 S. Buchanan St.,

Director
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
January 24, 1944
62-4792

Arlington, Virginia, where he remained until 1:30 p.m., at which time he drove his wife and daughter back to 4434 Hawthorne Street, N. W., which residence they entered.

Assistant to the Director E. A. TAMM, at 4:00 p.m., instructed that the surveillance be immediately discontinued. This was done.

Very truly yours,


GUY HOTTEL
Special Agent in Charge



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM: BK
62-74466

January 25, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. NADP

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ b6
Mr. Carson _____ b7C
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

You will recall last week end Mr. Ickes' office requested a copy of the transcript of the interview between Mr. Ickes and Mr. Briggs on January 13, 1944 so that Mr. Ickes could study it. The exact reason for that request was not clear as it was known that Miss Downes retained a copy of the original transcript at the time she turned the original and the records over to you. Nevertheless, a copy was sent her.

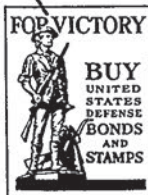
You will also recall that yesterday, Monday, January 24, 1944, Mr. Schweinhaut stated he had talked to Mr. Ickes who had filled in a number of the blanks from memory, but suggested that the Bureau re-transcribe the records. Mr. Schweinhaut was informed we had no especially trained people for transcribing such types of records but, however, we would be glad to send them to him for such handling if he desired. He did not wish them.

This morning Miss Downes, Mr. Ickes' secretary who had originally transcribed the records, called and stated she had gone over the original transcription in detail with Mr. Ickes, that he had filled in practically all the blanks from his recollection, and that she now had a complete transcript which she would be glad to send to the Bureau if we would have someone stop for it.

Mr. Isaacs, supervisor in the Liaison Section who had previously met her, went to her office and secured the copy which is attached hereto. Additional copies of this are being made. It will be studied and copies sent to the Department.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford



62-74466-176
F B I
33 JAN 26 1944

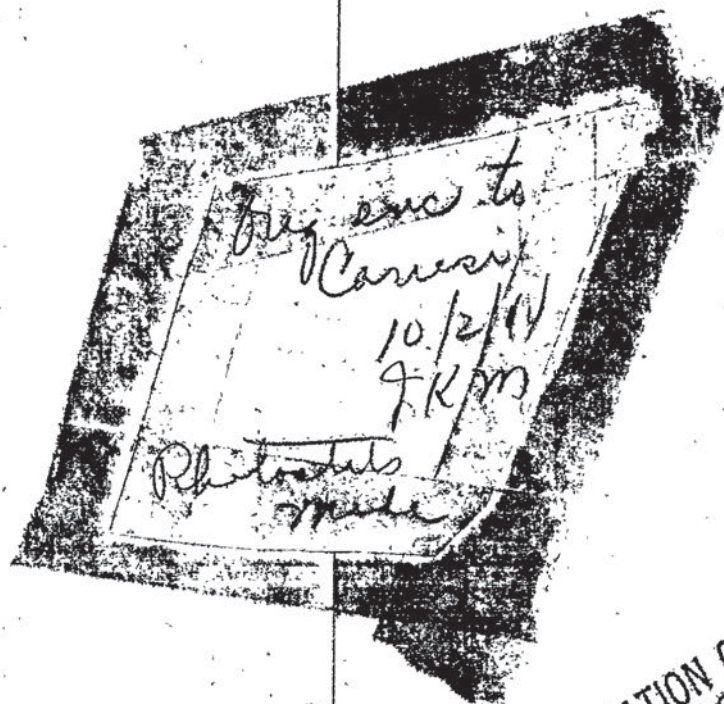
(5) KLF

Done - new transcript adds nothing of importance as it is much more intelligible than the attachment first one - jkm 1/25/44

memo 1/25/44

Original trans. recorded 10/2/44 jkm

18102 10/19/44



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

ENCLOSURE

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44 NOV 9 1964

62-74466-176

Conversation between Secretary Ickes and Mr. Briggs, January 13, 1944.

Secretary Ickes: Good morning.

Mr. Briggs: Good morning .. what happened to you?

Secretary: Well, just one of those things.

Mr. Briggs: Well, last night about half past nine I had a phone call from Kovius - -

Secretary: Oh, yes, Senator Nye's secretary.

Mr. Briggs: He said a lawyer called me and asked me to call you and then to call Sparks at New York.

Secretary: For you to call Sparks?

Mr. Briggs: Yes. I said all right, that I hadn't planned to be up that late but I would call him. I couldn't reach him, so I left a message. He called me back. "Now listen", he said, "I can't talk." He said, "everybody is lying". I said, "What do you mean?" "Just that", he said. "I can't tell you anything about this session today without it being contempt." He said, "You know I was followed in Washington?" I said, "no, I didn't know that." "But," I said, "I wish you would cut out this theatrical stuff. I'm getting awfully sick of it."

Secretary: You said it?

Mr. Briggs: I said it to him. He said, "This isn't theatrical stuff, this is serious. I am beginning to believe it." "What did you say? What did you tell them?" "I can't tell you, Mr. Briggs. I can't give you any information."

Secretary: Why did he ask you to call him?

Mr. Briggs: Well, he ... I don't know what it was that he had on his mind, and I became very much disturbed about it and I

Secretary: From what you said yesterday I am wondering whether someone isn't trying to frame you.

Mr. Briggs: Oh, that's not it. He said this: "They're trying to get your boss." I said, "Who is?" He said, "those two men that I mentioned to you yesterday. I said, 'I don't think so.' He said, 'All right, all right.' ~~Here's another thing~~ Hopkins and Rosenman are trying to get him." Here's another thing ..

Secretary: Hopkins and Rosenman?

Mr. Briggs: Hopkins and Rosenman. But he said that the day before.

Secretary: You told me that.

Mr. Briggs: Oh, yes, I told you that yesterday. He said Hopkins and Rosenman. That was the first time that Rosenman's name had ever been mentioned. And

Mr. Briggs (continued): that brings another possibility knew Sparks. So I am told. I did not see it but

Secretary: I think it was in the paper yesterday.

Briggs: Well, I didn't read it, and if they are any such or indicated that we knew anything whatsoever about this letter.

Secretary: Well, just how much have you seen of Sparks lately?

Briggs: Well, I saw him day before yesterday.

Secretary: He has been at your house several times, hasn't he?

Briggs: Once or twice but that was some time ago.

Secretary: That was before you sold the house? How long ago?

Briggs: Last summer.

Secretary: Last summer. Well, was he ever in your office here?

Briggs: Not recently. Well he would call up. He called up once or twice and I said, "Why don't you drop over?" "I don't think I had better." He seemed afraid of the FBI.

Secretary: Well, maybe he is.

Briggs: I don't know.

Secretary: Maybe he is wired himself. Maybe he isn't. You haven't heard anything more from Gannett?

Briggs: No, I didn't call him because it was so late when I talked to Sparks.

Secretary: Well, was Sparks truthful on the stand?

Briggs: The papers said this morning Do you suppose that you could find out through Attorney General Biddle what Sparks told the grand jury?

Secretary: Well, I don't like to ask that sort of thing. The grand jury is confidential and I don't like to ask favors and I don't like to ask any particularly that are likely to be turned down. That isn't comfortable.

Briggs:

Secretary: No, but what have you got to show it? Does he still think that the signature is genuine? If I remember correctly, that afternoon that you went over to see him he showed you a photostatic copy.

Briggs:

Secretary: Well, you went over to see him one afternoon.

Briggs: Oh, I saw the original.

Secretary: The original of the letter?

Briggs: But it made no impression on me because I did not even notice that a word had been crossed out.

Secretary: I never knew that. He didn't tell you then where he got it?

Briggs: I didn't ask him.

Secretary: Do you suppose ..

Briggs: But I did ask him after the Trohan article.

Secretary: Yes.

Briggs: I got him on the phone last Sunday and said to him, "You go out and buy the TIMES HERALD and read that ... story and call me back." He did. He said, "I haven't any idea where that story came from, unless that damn Langer has been talking." "But", I said, "what would he know? Who has been talking to Langer?" He said, "I don't know anything about it." I said, "Will you please tell Trohan or anybody else that neither the Secretary nor I know anything about this letter."

Secretary: Well, now, of course, someone said that to Trohan. And that would be consistent with the suspicion.

Briggs:

Secretary: I didn't see that.

Briggs:

Secretary: That would be consistent with the suspicion that somebody was trying to frame me and that the TRIBUNE gang was in on it. They would pay anything to get me.

Briggs: Yes. It is true they would throw anybody to the wolves if they could get you.

Secretary: Or they would fire anyone if they could fire them.

Briggs:

Secretary: Would he tell you what the nomination was?

Briggs: No, he didn't.

Secretary: What was the sermon on?

Briggs:

Secretary: When did he check out there?

Briggs: That morning. That would be Tuesday morning.

Secretary: He checked out Tuesday morning?

Briggs: Tuesday morning.

Secretary: And what hotel is he at here?

Briggs: Well, he stopped at the Carroll Arms. But he is in New York. He was

Secretary: At the Carroll Arms?

Briggs: Yes.

Secretary: And that is where he said that a woman reserved a room

Briggs: Paid \$4 down on a room when he got here Tuesday.

Secretary: And then it was Tuesday that he called you up and you and your daughter stopped over to see him?

Briggs: Yes, I stopped over to see him with Nancy along. We drove up ---- we were going to meet Mrs. Briggs down down anyway. We were going to meet her at six so we drove up past the Senate Office Building.

Secretary: Yes.

Briggs: We made the stop and walked down together. I told Nancy to sit in the car but she didn't want to. She said, "It is cold. I'll wait in the hotel lobby for you." Sparks was waiting inside. He walked up to me and handed me a key, telling me that he would join me later in his room. He wanted to hurry me through the lobby. I said, "I've got to get out of here. I've got to meet my wife at six o'clock." He said, "I will be right down." I said He said, "I thought it would be better this way

Secretary: That he was covering your chief?

Briggs: That's right. Well, then and I had been followed when I went to New York how lost one is, rushing through the crowds, bustling through, and how this was power politics, he said, no common politics. "My god", he said, "the most unscrupulous things happen. We don't know" he said, "that you had stolen it from Ickes." "Ha, ha", I said, "My god"....

Secretary: That you had stolen it from me?

Briggs: That I had stolen it from you. I said, "My God, assuming that

Secretary: When did you see this letter? You said some months ago ...

Briggs: Oh, yes ... sometime ago, sometime around Thanksgiving. But it made no impression on me. It didn't seem important.

Secretary: It isn't important except for the implications.

Briggs: Yes, and I didn't even notice the word blotted out. I just looked at it. It was badly mused, folded and refolded it looked as if it had been handled

Secretary: Well one has to believe this letter must have been forged.

Briggs: It must have been. Then after I had talked to him I said to him, "Will you please tell Trohan or anyone else who is interested that neither the

Briggs (continued): Secretary nor I have had anything to do with this letter." He said, "I certainly will. I am coming to Washington and I'll make them look like nickels. Remember, I told you that?"

Secretary: When was that?

Briggs: That was three or maybe four weeks ago.

Secretary: Well, he admitted that he knew Trohan?

Briggs: Well, I suppose he does. I don't know that he ever has admitted that to me.

Secretary: Well wouldn't that be pretty much of an admission? You said "when you see Trohan".

Briggs: I said, "Will you tell Trohan or anyone else who is interested."

Secretary: It would seem to me that that was an implication by both of you that he knew Trohan.

Briggs: Well, I assumed that of course he could make it his business to see Trohan, as long as Trohan had signed the article.

Secretary: How about this fellow on the TIMES HERALD?

Briggs: Walldrop?

Secretary: Does he know Walldrop?

Briggs: I don't know. And then he said, "I'll make them look like nickels!" "Well," I said, "don't make a statement today because the strike is on." He didn't know anything about the strike.

Secretary: That was the newspaper strike?

Briggs: That was the newspaper strike. I said, "Wait until that is over." I said, "By the way, where did you get that letter?" He said, he laughed, "I got it from a friend of mine in San Antonio." "Well," I said, "now make that pretty clear to these people." And that was all I heard about it. Then he began going off on a tangent.

Secretary: Well, his statement to you that he had heard that you had stolen the letter from me. Well that would mean that I had written or caused the letter to be written and never mailed it, wouldn't it? It is inconsistent with the statement that I had sent you or somebody else to San Antonio to get the letter. Have you ever been in Texas?

Briggs: Never been within gunshot of it. I tell you, Mr. Secretary, I am sure that this has happened. I think the whole damn thing is some sort of plot. I am very uncomfortable about some kind of a conspiracy of these Kate-mongers who speak for the TRIBUNE, the TIMES HERALD and the NEW YORK TIMES. ... last night ---- Supposing that I am called down there to the Grand jury. Schweinhaut said to me last Friday "I didn't want to be in a position not to have talked to you." The Grand jury may want me to come down. . . . And I was having trouble with my eyes.

Secretary: Well, you can't tell them that. You would have to tell them what you have told me.

Briggs: No, I would tell them the truth. But about the New York trip, I couldn't tell them anything like that

Secretary: Schweinhaut?

Briggs: They might want me to come down and say that I didn't know anything about it. But supposing that they called me and I was there and Sparks and I deny ever having given it to him. I can't deny having seen it. I can't tell them when I saw it. It was sometime -- the latter part of November ... and I would tell them

Secretary: Did you tell Schweinhaut that you had seen the letter?

Briggs: Well, I think I did. I can't remember whether he asked about that. I had just seen a NEWSWEEK (?) in which the article I saw that.

Secretary: I thought you told me once you never had seen that original.

Briggs: No, oh, no. It was just ... I don't even remember where it was, where we were, whether we were in my office or

Secretary: How often has he been in your office?

Briggs: Once or twice. At lunch one day. On the 5th floor last summer.

Secretary: Why didn't you tell me Monday that Mr. Schweinhaut had been over to see you on Friday.

Briggs: I did tell you.

Secretary: On Monday? You didn't tell me until yesterday when I asked you.

Briggs: I thought that I told you.

Secretary: Well, you seem to forget. I don't know what somebody is running for whom. But it doesn't look very good to me.

Briggs: Here's the situation. Supposing that they start after Sparks, indict and prosecute Sparks and get in some of the higher-ups

Secretary: Has he anything in your handwriting or over your signature that would help him at all in making out a case against you?

Briggs: No.

Secretary: You're sure? No telegrams? No letters? Did you see that manuscript before he published it.

Briggs: Yes.

Secretary: All of it?

Briggs: No, not all of it. I did not see that part about Hopkins.

Secretary: You didn't?

Briggs: No, actually I saw

Secretary: Did you make any corrections or changes?

Briggs: Maybe I made a change or two He wrote it, or Movius wrote it. I don't know who. It was just a rehash of all that stuff that I had printed in my news bulletins.

Secretary: Well, there again I thought you told me that all you had supplied to him was some circular.

Briggs: I gave him those bulletins ..

Secretary: Bulletins?

Briggs:

Secretary: But in addition to that he sent his manuscript to you?

Briggs: He brought it over. I told him that I thought the story was all right.

Secretary: Of course that implicates you in a way.

Briggs: Yes.

Secretary: Same sort of a thing. You certainly had something to do with it if you read the manuscript and some responsibility.

Briggs: Well, naturally, I have no control over what he writes.

Secretary: No, but you could have refused to make any comment on it. I wish you had told me about it. When was that?

Briggs: That was a long time before he had it printed, whenever that was.

Secretary: Well, there is something about this, several things about it, that I don't understand. I don't think that you have been entirely frank with me on this.

Briggs: Well, I didn't know.

Secretary: Well, I remember your coming in here the day that the thing was published and you told me that it had been published. And if I were under oath I would have to say that my best recollection is that you told me that you did not know anything about it.

Briggs: I did not see it in a book for a long time after it was published, but I did read the manuscript.

Secretary: Then I asked you to get me a copy of the book and you did get me a copy. I came in the next day and had you in and told you that I wasn't very much impressed. I commented particularly on the Hopkins part of it, saying that I was puzzled, that I always have been puzzled

Briggs: Well I didn't see that. That made a difference. All that he showed to me was the story of the Frank (?) incident and the story of the _____ of the Waldorf Hotel, I mean the _____ Hotel in Philadelphia. That is all that he showed me. I said those are the things that I had in my bulletins that Hopkins letter, let's see it.

Secretary: Well, you remember, I remember that in commenting on the Hopkins letter I said that that was likely to raise quite a controversy and I couldn't see the object.

Briggs: I remember that.

Secretary: Or the motive in anyone writing it. I still don't, except on the theory that somebody is trying to plant something on me. And that couldn't be done except through you. And even at best I think it puts me in a very embarrassing position because if they should call you over you would have to tell the facts and you would tell them that you had been in communication with him when he was writing the thing and you discussed the Hopkins letter with him and, well, you know what these damn people would say. "Well, well....."

Briggs:

Secretary: Sure. It just, it involves me right up to the hilt.

Briggs: I wonder if

Secretary: You. Every darn bit. It would be hard to explain that considering our relationship and that we have had so many discussions about Willkie and about Sparks and about Stassen and so many other people that some people would be inclined to disbelieve that you had not said anything to me.

Briggs: I don't ..

Secretary: I don't understand.

Briggs:

Secretary: But I didn't know you were seeing Sparks. Sparks was writing the book.

Briggs:I haven't been. I haven't seen him more than 4 or 5 times. Maybe 5 times in a year.

Secretary: But I never knew that.

Briggs: He was out to the house for dinner one night ... last autumn he was there and that was before he even started the book.

Secretary: Yes, but you in connection with when you consider that I had gone on to Chicago, at the home of Ed Kelly when I met you for the first time and you told me the story of the convention there. As a matter of fact you had it in a manuscript and in a draft of a speech. You told me all that stuff and you remember that I asked you to call Sparks up ...

Briggs: You did.

Secretary: And you listened in on an extension. Sparks knew and considering all that and the fact that Sparks was up to this, up to some mischief, it just strikes me as being a serious thing that you did not say anything about it. I never heard anything until you came in and told me about the book. Is that right?

Briggs: I wouldn't count on that statement. I don't remember. But at any rate I came in after the Trohan article.

Secretary: Well that was simply three or four days after it appeared.

Briggs: three or four days after it appeared. You hadn't said anything so I voluntarily came in after

Secretary: Well, I can't see any reason for bringing you into it except, unless it is based on the hope of trying to connect me with it.

Briggs: Well, ...

Secretary: now, it just clicks, the pieces are falling together.

Briggs: Certainly permission 4 years ago to happen every campaign. and at Philadelphia ...

Secretary: Yes, but that doesn't have anything to do with the Hopkins letter.

Briggs: No, of course it doesn't. They smelled me out and put two and two together and well it's done.

Secretary: Well, did they smell you out or did Sparks tell you? It is very significant that last night that Sparks should have said to you as you told me that he did that these papers were trying to get me. Apparently he repeated that over the telephone last night again, didn't he?

Briggs: That they were trying to get me boss.

Secretary: Yes.

Briggs: about these two men that were ...

Secretary: Well, I just don't believe that. I think that if there is anybody trying to get me that it is this lousy newspaper triumvirate and that somebody is paying good money. I can't explain it on any other theory.

Briggs: Well, I will have to
I believe that I thought about it afterwards. Then I

Secretary: Well, I asked you whether you had taken it to Justice.

Briggs: Yes.

Secretary: Do you know Henning? Do you know any of the other men?

Briggs: Never have talked to him.

Secretary: Sparks told you that he came in here with some Ohio mayors on some Public Works projects?

Briggs: I don't remember well. Something like that.

Secretary: I don't remember him. But that is the only time he ever saw me?

Briggs: My recollection is that

Secretary: Well, I don't remember him at all. I wouldn't remember him if he should walk in the door. And why in the hell -- you know there are some funny things about this. Who selected the name Humphrey Lee? Who picked on him? I did not know even that there was such a person, did you?

And there was some cock and bull story about a man by the name of Frank Phillips, a friend of mine, an oil man ... had discovered the letter and had been an intermediary or had brought the letter to me, or something.

Briggs: I don't know.

Secretary: Then I think there is another report ..

Briggs: had the story.

Secretary: Yes, I saw that, I remember that. Another rumor to the effect that I sent you down to San Antonio to get the letter..

Briggs: Sparks said that I went. And here was another thing that Sparks said to me day before yesterday reading the letter, how he had waved it in front of this crowd at the Republican National Revivalist Committee meeting, and said that whatever the grand jury might do there were at least 2500 people who had seen the letter. Then he said that an old friend, I think he said "Keeler".

Secretary: Heeler?

Briggs: No, Keeler, who, as I recollect it, must be in the engraving business or something of the sort ... took this letter, asked permission to take it, and wanted to, by some process of putting powder or whatever they do to bring out to bring out that thing that said was up there with a notation on the side that had been erased. He said that he brought it back to the hotel and said, "Well", he said "that paper is so hard and the pencil in which writing was so soft that it made it impossible to make it out."

Secretary: Was it written in longhand?

Briggs: Oh, no, the letter was typewritten ...

Secretary: The notation?

Briggs: There had been some kind of a notation made in the margin.

Secretary: Who is Keeler?

Briggs: Well, he is a friend of Sparks', apparently he is an engraver of some kind.

Secretary: You don't know where he lives?

Briggs: No, I don't know anything about him. He said that he could get absolutely nothing. Sparks said, "how much do I owe you?". He said, "\$50". Sparks said, "I paid him \$50. It wasn't worth it."

Secretary: No newspapers tied in with it?

Briggs: No, the St. Louis STAR DEMOCRAT is the only one and that was right after the book came out.

Secretary: Oh, yes. Well hasn't Movius been doing some talking about you?

Briggs: I rather think he has.

Secretary: I rather think so. Have you heard Senator Wheeler's name in connection with this?

Briggs: Why, is he mixed up in this?

Secretary: Well, I just heard it, I have forgotten in what connection. Well, the whole thing, it is a very curious thing. As you know, I have never figured out how anyone could have a motive. Well, I think we did discuss that there might be a possible motive in order to get Hopkins. But, hell, to get Hopkins a letter is forged in the name of Hopkins. A forgery is the easiest thing in the world to disprove and when you disprove it, why you have only built up a man you are trying to get.

Briggs: You destroy it. You destroy the document.

Secretary: Why, the thing reacts, the other way. So that the only motive now that I can see, and I have thought it over very carefully since I talked to you yesterday, the only motive that I can see is a desire of these people to implicate me in a grossly stupid forgery. And what do they give as my motive for it? They go back to 1935 when I thought that Hopkins got more money for WPA than he was entitled to and that I thought that I should have had more for PWA. Well, that is just damn far-fetched. But it is significant as showing the eagerness on the part of someone to implicate me. Now, whether I like Hopkins or whether I don't like Hopkins is beside the point. I just don't believe that Hopkins is even remotely interested in this sort of a thing. He wouldn't have to do that to make it tough for me and I just don't believe Sam Rosenman would even think of such a thing. Now Sparks linking the two together in what would make them really co-conspirators must necessarily be upon the assumption that they both dislike me and both would like to destroy me. Well, waiving the question whether Hopkins likes me or not, I never have had any indication that Rosenman has not had a friendly disposition and certainly Rosenman has had no occasion to enter into a conspiracy to embarrass me.

Briggs: I have never heard of Rosenman being unfriendly ...

Secretary: I wonder if Sparks told that to the grand jury yesterday.

Briggs: I haven't any idea. He didn't tell me what he told to the grand jury. I know my wife said this morning that probably Somebody had called and wanted to speak to me. She said that I wasn't there. "Has he gone to work?" "Yes, he's at work." "Who is it? Would you like to leave a message?" "No", he said, "this is a friend". And that made it an anonymous call, crossed wire, or something of the sort. She called me up to tell me about it. Well, it is very disagreeable. Now, I am telling you I am just all fed up with it and I will do anything that you say.

Secretary: I don't think that we have seen the end of it. I tried to reach you yesterday afternoon. I thought you were coming back.

Briggs: I came back.

Secretary: When?

Briggs: For a little while. I was back about half past two.

Secretary: I tried to reach you two or three times.

Briggs: I was having trouble with my eyes. very difficult.

Secretary: Well, all right.

Briggs: He did not go on, you see, until two o'clock and so I had to get the papers yesterday afternoon

Secretary: Well, all right.

Briggs: Well, I will do anything that you say.

Secretary: Well, I don't think anything can be done. I think ... the fat's in the fire and what is going to be the outcome I don't know. I don't like the looks of it.

Briggs: If you want me to go over and tell my story to Biddle or anyone like that ..

Secretary: No, you told it to Schweinhaut. I suppose you told him

Briggs: No, I answered his questions. He wasn't there over 20 minutes.

Secretary: All right.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:KLW

January 25, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Henry Schweinhaut advised me that they are making three separate indictments on George N. Briggs, which they expect to be returned today. They are:

1. Forgery in two counts
Forging
Passing (with intent to defraud Sparks, et al)
2. False Pretenses
(Sparks-victim in obtaining \$125
from him and attempting to obtain
money from others)
3. Mail Fraud

Mr. Schweinhaut said that in all three they are charging him with defrauding Sparks and others so that they can use anything that may turn up. He added that they are trying to avoid "injury of others" so that it will not be necessary to prove that Hopkins was injured and embroil them in a complicated situation.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/18/85 BY

32 JAN 26 1944

Edward A. Tamm.

33 JAN 26 1944

b6
b7C

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



KCH:LVO

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 25, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

On the night of January 13, 1944, Miss Downs, Secretary to Mr. Ickes furnished you four dictagraph records containing recordings of the conversation on January 13, 1944, between George N. Briggs and Secretary Ickes. She also furnished you a twelve page transcript she had prepared from the recordings.

The above recordings were delivered on January 25, 1944, to Mr. Henry A. Schweinhaut of the Department following a telephonic request for them from him. They were personally delivered to Mr. Schweinhaut in his office by Miss Pauline Soule, Bureau Stenographer, at 4:30 p.m.

On January 25, 1944, Miss Downs furnished to the Bureau a new transcript of the above recordings, this containing additions to the original recalled from memory by Secretary Ickes in those places where the records themselves are unintelligible.

As stated in my memorandum of January 25, 1944, this new transcript has been reviewed and it is found that, although it is much more intelligible than the first one, it contains no further information of particular importance. Additional copies of it have been made for file and copies are being furnished to Mr. Schweinhaut.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

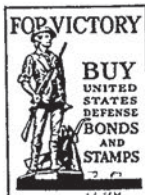
Handwritten note:
Hansen closed
after Johnson
1/26/44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

#256586

RECORDED
INDEXED

162-74466-178
JAN 26 1944
(5)



JAN 26 1944

b6
b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1662132-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 38

Page 4 ~ b3; b6; b7C;
Page 5 ~ b3; b6; b7C;
Page 6 ~ b3;
Page 7 ~ b3;
Page 8 ~ b3;
Page 9 ~ b3;
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Page 57 ~ b7D;
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Page 62 ~ b7D;
Page 63 ~ b7D;
Page 64 ~ b7D;
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Page 73 ~ b7D;
Page 74 ~ b7D;
Page 75 ~ b7D;

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X For this Page X
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JKM: BK
3:35 PM
62-74466

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 25, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Agent Crowl called from New York with reference to my instructions that they discreetly determine if possible who is financing George N. Briggs' retaining James D. C. Murray as his attorney. Mr. Crowl said there appear to be the following leads:

1. Try to find out where Murray's bank account is located through available credit sources and thereafter analyze his bank account to find out what deposits it might have in it.

2. They know from the surveillance of Briggs that he contacted four persons while he was in New York from whom he might or might not have received money. They are: Thomas Sullivan of Chicago; Glenn Briggs, George Briggs' brother, who operates the Bridge and Backgammon Club in New York City; Mary Jane Mason, partner of Glenn Briggs; and a lady believed to be Briggs' mother.

With reference to any inquiries to be requested of the Chicago Office concerning Thomas Sullivan, I suggested they might find out who he is, his contacts, and make a check on his bank account, but that Chicago should be advised of the delicacy of this matter and told that any inquiries must be very discreet.

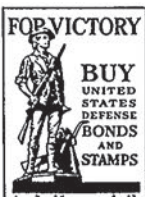
I told Mr. Crowl that we would rather have nothing done in this connection than have our interest become known. He said they would be guided accordingly.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

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b7C

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/83 BY #256586



14 JAN 26 1944 519

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-74466-179
F B I
33 JAN 26 1944

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.
January 13, 1944

EAT:AJ
9:50 am

MEMORANDUM FOR ~~THE DIRECTOR~~

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Mr. Harry Hopkins called and asked if we would get the Civil Service file of Briggs and see where he has worked, his references, etc. I told him we would try to get this, but that it was not unlikely that Mr. Ickes has anticipated an effort of this kind and has called the file himself and has it locked up.

I asked Mr. Hopkins if he had told Miss Krauss to send over the signatures, etc. He said she was sending this over this morning and that he was sending over his check book. He inquired if the ink he has around would be any good. I told him that wouldn't make any difference and if we needed anything like that we would have Miss Krauss send it over.

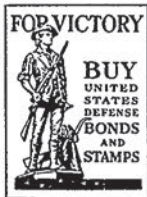
Respectfully,

Edw. A. Tamm

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/86 BY [redacted]

1/18/44
J. H. H.
and



162-74466-181
F B I
32 JAN 26 1944

32 JAN 20 1944

62-74466

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



GCC:ML

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 13, 1944

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____ b6
Mr. Hendon _____ b7C
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD *ph*

Re: GEORGE N. BRIGGS
3034 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, Virginia
SPECIAL INQUIRY

In accordance with your instructions, SA J. J. Canavan checked the records of the Civil Service Commission. No file was available at the Civil Service Commission as the Commission never investigated Briggs, his appointment being for an "excepted position"; however, an application was found which shows that George N. Briggs, of 223 Van Buren Street, Hyattsville, Maryland, who was born on May 6, 1886, executed a Civil Service application on October 15, 1941, giving as his legal residence the State of Minnesota. He stated he had never been arrested; that he did not have any relatives in the U. S. Government, and that he had no military service. He executed this application for a position in the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense, Room 7218, Department of the Interior, South.

Education

Horace Mann Preparatory School, New York City, 1905-1906.

References

FRANK GANNETT, Rochester, New York, occupation, TIMES UNION PUBLISHER.

CHARLES J. MOSS, St. Paul, Minnesota, occupation, Vice President of the Joyce Insurance Company.

G. NELSON SPARKS, Norwalk, Connecticut (this may be Ohio), occupation, Vice President of the Sparks Simplex Corporation.

Elmer Blu, Duluth, Minnesota, 700 Wolvin Building, occupation General Counsel.

A. L. Jones, St. Paul, Minnesota, occupation, Great Northern Railway.

FOR DEFENSE



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INDEXED

162-24466-172

32 JAN 26 1944

62-74466

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME AND STREET ADDRESS</u>
New York, New York	7/1906 to 9/1906	Evening Mail Salary shown \$300 Reporter
Scranton, Pennsylvania	9/1906 to 3/1907	Tribune Salary shown \$450 Reporter
Chicago, Illinois	3/1907 to 6/1909	American Salary shown \$936 Reporter
Chicago, Illinois	6/1909 to 6/1911	Tribune Salary shown \$1300 Writer, Sunday Department
New York, New York	6/1911 to 8/1912	Press Salary shown \$1560 Writer, Sunday Department
Chicago, Illinois	8/1912 to 4/1916	Tribune Salary shown \$2080 Writer, Sunday Department
St. Paul, Minnesota	4/1916 to 5/1923	Dispatch Pioneer Press Average \$2200 City Editor Sunday Editor Political Writer
St. Paul, Minnesota	5/1923 to 6/1941	Owned and directed Minnesota Legislative Research Bureau Average earnings \$5,000
Washington, D. C.	8/1941 to -----	Petroleum Coordinator Salary \$4600 Information Specialist

Experience -----Exclusively Newspaper

Clients-----	General Mills, Incorporated	Commerce Clearing House
	U. S. Steel	Minnesota Honeywell Register
	Great Northern Railway	Cream of Wheat Corporation
	Tobacco Merchants Association	
	and others	

Sold Service ----- Ghost Service --Lectures on Government at McAllister
College, St. Paul, Minnesota

Stated: He began to disagree with clients on politics and presidential candidates
which was the beginning of the end of his Bureau and was forced to sell out.

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

A "service record" was also found which consists of a card. It contained the information that Briggs received an excepted appointment as a specialist in the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense, Washington, D. C., at \$4600 per year on August 21, 1941. His status was changed to that of an Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior at \$5600 per year on June 1, 1942.

Credit Record, Washington, D. C.

In accordance with your instructions, ASAC Hennrich, of the Washington Field Office, caused a credit search to be made and telephonically advised me of the following information from a report of November 26, 1943 as a result thereof.

His latest address, according to the records of the credit bureau, is 3034 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia, landlord Fairlington, Inc.; employment Oil Division, Office of the Secretary of the Interior; salary reported on one occasion as \$5100 and on another as \$7500; previous occupation reported to have been in the publishing business in Minneapolis, Minnesota; law suits--sued locally on January 18, 1943 by the Midland Hills Country Club for \$119.40, plaintiff's attorney was W. E. Miller; recently sued, no date available, in Washington by the Time Loan Company for \$230.53, attorney for the plaintiff was M. Dunn, and Briggs' address was given as 5138 Department of the Interior Building on this occasion; St. Paul credit poor.

A St. Paul credit report as of December 12, 1941 reflects that some of his accounts had to be collected from him by attorneys. Credit was rated as very slow. There was a women's wear account in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1941 for \$115.00 and no records of any payments having been made on it. A dealer account in Minneapolis for \$134.00 in 1935 was collected by an attorney. A report received by the credit bureau from a St. Paul financial institution states that in 1941 there were 52 "insufficient fund" checks written by Briggs. Previous addresses locally were listed in the credit report as follows:

223 Van Buren Street, Hyattsville, Maryland.
4612 Howard Road (possibly Harvard Road), College Park, Maryland.
226 Broad Street, Falls Church, Virginia.
223 Shepherd Road, University Park, Maryland.

His credit record shows one local bank loan of \$460.00 which was repaid but very slowly.

St. Paul Accounts Sent to Arlington County Credit Bureau for Collection

Albrecht's Furniture Company; amount \$21.90; paid August 21, 1943.
The Tyre Shop; amount \$23.60; paid November 7, 1942.
St. Paul Shopper; amount \$95.25; still owed.
Shueman's, Inc.; amount \$244.76; still owes \$197.63.

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

Hohn & Olsen; amount \$65.10; owes \$53.10.
Tristate Telephone and Telegraph Company; amount \$28.12; still owes \$10.00.
Strem Fashion Shop, Minneapolis, Minnesota; amount \$121.90; still
owes \$100.00.

A further credit rating is available at the Mutual Credit Rating
Exchange, 610 Hamm Building, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Automobile

1938 DeSoto coupe bearing 1942 Virginia license 495-412 with a 1943
tag #14983.

Through Supervisor Hallett of the Identification Division his Civil
Service fingerprints have been located and are now being searched through the
criminal files. You will be advised of any identification.

Respectfully,



G. C. Callan

Supervisor Hallett called back and advised that Briggs' fingerprints
had been searched without effecting any identification.

January 15, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

MEMORANDUM

RE: GEORGE W. BRIGGS

b6
b7c

George W. Briggs is presently employed as an Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior at \$5600 per year. He has been employed in this position since June 1, 1942. Prior thereto, he was a specialist in the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense, Washington, D. C., at a salary of \$1400. He obtained this position, which was an excepted appointment, on August 21, 1941. Prior to that time, he engaged in the newspaper business. In order to obtain his position with the Petroleum Coordinator, he gave the following references on his application:

C. Nelson Sparks, Vice President, Sparks Sinsplax Corporation,
Norwalk, Connecticut.

Frank Garnett, Publisher of the Times Union, Rochester, New York.

Charles J. Moss, Vice President, Joyce Insurance Company, St. Paul,
Minnesota.

Elmer Hu, General Counsel, 700 Holvin Building, Duluth, Minnesota.

A. T. Jones, Great Northern Railway, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Briggs' credit, both in St. Paul, Minnesota, and in Washington, D. C., has been very poor. According to a St. Paul credit report, in 1941, a St. Paul financial institution had listed fifty-two checks written by Briggs at times when there were insufficient funds in the institution to cover them. St. Paul credit agencies requested the Arlington County Credit Bureau of Arlington County, Virginia, to collect seven accounts for various St. Paul and Minneapolis merchants. Some of these accounts have never been collected. Two lawsuits have been entered against Briggs locally, according to credit reports, since he came to Washington in the summer of 1941. He has lived at five residences in the Washington area since 1941. The latest residence of record is 3034 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia.

Prior to entering Government service, Briggs, who was born on May 6, 1886, engaged in the newspaper and publishing business. He worked for such papers as the New York Tribune, Scranton Tribune, Chicago American, Chicago Tribune, New York Press, Dispatch Pioneer Press of St. Paul, Minnesota, all between July, 1906, and May, 1923. From May, 1923 until June, 1941, he owned and directed the Minnesota Legislative Research Bureau with an estimated income of \$5,000 per year. In this venture, he had such clients as General Mills, Inc., U. S. Steel Corporation, Great Northern Railway, Commerce Clearing House, Minneapolis Honeywell Register Company, Cream of Wheat Corporation, Tobacco Merchants Association. Briggs once gave as his reason for discontinuing the Minnesota Legislative Research Bureau that he disagreed with his clients on politics and Presidential candidates, and because of his views was forced to sell his business.

162-24466-182
F B I

32 JAN 26 1944

mg



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JKM: BK
1:10 P.M.

January 21, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

SA Emerich, New York, telephonically advised that George N. Briggs stayed in James D. C. Murray's office until about 11:30 A.M., and then went to a building at 250 Park Avenue but he just went in and came right out again; it isn't known whether he saw anybody or not as he was in there such a short space of time. Briggs then immediately went to the Biltmore Hotel where he got his bag and checked out.

Briggs sent a telegram to Assistant Attorney General Schweinhaut as follows: "I will be in your office Monday morning at 10:00 A.M. (signed) George Briggs." Then he left the hotel, and as of 12:45 P.M. he was in the Chateau Richlieu Restaurant there in New York City.

Mr. Emerich said it would appear that in Briggs' talk with James D. C. Murray, Murray undoubtedly recommended to him that he go to the Department of Justice and talk to somebody there. I pointed out to him that since Briggs indicated he wouldn't come to Schweinhaut's office until Monday, he wasn't coming back to Washington immediately, and that therefore the Agents should keep his activities closely covered. Mr. Emerich said he has four Agents on the surveillance and that they will report his activities periodically.

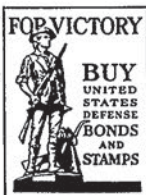
Respectfully,

JKM
J. K. Mumford

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DATE 10/1/86 BY [redacted]

RECORDED & INDEXED
155

62-74466-183
JAN 22 1944



70 FEB 3 1944

JKM:PES
1/21/44
62-74466

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL TOLSON

RE: C. NELSON SELLERS

You will recall that [redacted]

b3

You will note from an examination of the transcript of the interview conducted with Mr. George T. Briggs on January 17, 1944, a copy of which has heretofore been made available to you, on page 17 thereof in referring to the [redacted]

b3

I also refer you to [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] which has been furnished to you heretofore and which has certain entries appearing to have a direct bearing on the above matters.

I have also learned that on [redacted]

b7D

following form and wording:

in the [redacted]

Tolson _____
E. A. _____
Clegg _____
 Coffey _____
 Glavin _____
 Ladd _____
 Nichols _____
 Rosen _____
 Tracy _____
 Acers _____
 Carson _____
 Harbo _____
 Hendon _____
 Mumford _____
 Starke _____
 Quinn Tamm _____
 Nease _____
 Gandy _____

62-74466-184

RECORDED
INDEXED
JAN 25 1944
FBI - NEW YORK

Memorandum for Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

b7D

In view of the patent conflicts in the data referred to above I had
inquiry made at [REDACTED]

b7D

It was learned there that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
for the company at that time, but has since retired.

[REDACTED] confidentially advised that [REDACTED]

b7D



JKM:DM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols ✓ b6
Mr. Rosen ✓ b7C
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn-Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

You inquired this evening of Mr. Mumford as to whether the paper used in the "Hopkins letter" had been positively identified as White House stationery and he informed you at that time that it had not. I thought you would like to have a clarification on this point since the Press stated, apparently on the basis of information given out by Henry Schweinhaut, that the paper used was authentic White House stationery.

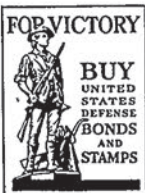
Examinations of the paper have failed to disclose any specific evidence that it is not genuine "White House" stationery. It appears to be the right quality of bond, to have an authentic Government watermark and to have an embossed letterhead comparable with that on known White House stationery. To date, however, variances have been found in the thickness and other features as listed above, usually used in identification, between the questioned document and at least four different samples of known genuine paper with which it has been compared. Until we find known genuine White House stationery, therefore, from the same "batch" we cannot positively state that the paper on which the questioned letter was written is genuine White House stationery.

As of further possible interest there is quoted hereafter the comment of Mr. C. A. Appel, of the Laboratory, in a memorandum he submitted to Mr. Coffey on January 14, 1944 and also the content of a memorandum he submitted to Mr. Coffey on January 20, 1944:

JANUARY 14, 1944:

"1. Is the Paper Genuine Stationery or an Imitation Thereof?

The paper was compared with such known specimens as are available consisting of letters from Mr. Hopkins in the files of the Bureau. One of these, a letter dated September 23, 1942, is of the same general arrangement including the letterhead. However, neither this specimen nor any of the others exactly match the physical characteristics of the questioned letter. The questioned letter is an unusually thick, good quality bond as are the known specimens but no known sample has been submitted which can be linked to the questioned by the matching of physical characteristics. The watermark also differs from the known indicating that the questioned paper was not manufactured at the same time as any of the known. The watermark in the questioned is the same general design but differs decidedly in particular



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INDEXED

162

EX - 33

162-7446-185

32 JAN 29 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

characteristics and dimensions. This watermark is not that of Government paper in general so far as it has been possible to compare such watermarks. Instead it has four stars above the eagle which may be a particular paper used for such purposes only, such as the White House Offices. If this is true, the differences between the questioned and known could indicate that the questioned is a newer or older paper. This could only be determined by securing complete samples of papers used in August 1943 as well as those used the previous years.

"The embossed letterhead in a similar way differs from the genuine with which it was compared (1942) so as to show that the same die or printing plate was not used. There is a very material difference in size although almost the exact arrangement of letters and the same style exists. This letterhead on the questioned letter is embossed in the same way and with the same color ink as the known of the previous years but no letterhead among the known matches in the details listed. As soon as adequate samples of contemporaneous papers are received a positive decision can be reached as to them.

"From the above it is clear that the stationery appears genuine having most of the general attributes of genuine paper (constantly in use in varying forms) but does not match any known specimens received up to this time in such a way as to permit a positive decision identifying the paper source. No contemporaneous samples are at hand."

JANUARY 20, 1944:

"A comparison was made between the four specimens of paper bearing the White House letterhead and the questioned letter. It was concluded that the questioned letter was not part of any of the supplies from which any of the known specimens were secured. These are labeled:

1. Present Supply
2. June 1943
3. May 1943
4. December 1943

"In every instance the questioned specimen is a thicker paper and in every instance the embossed letterhead is not as long. If there is any other place where a supply of this kind is kept, specimens of this should be submitted.

"It will be remembered that the questioned letter was previously compared with the letter of Mr. Hopkins dated September 23, 1942 which is in the Bureau Files, This stationery is also different as was previously reported." b7E

Today for the first time samples of White House stationery from the Office of the Secretary of the Interior were secured and are being examined.

1/21/44 I am advised this morning an identification has been made with this paper secured last night.

DML

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

January 20, 1944

RHK:MD
62-4792

Director, F. B. I.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the Bureau request to determine whether or not any litigation has been involved in the transfer of the property formerly owned by GEORGE N. BRIGGS at 226 West Broad Street, Falls Church, Virginia, Special Agent R. H. KURTZMAN contacted Mr. JOHN J. LOFLIN of the Colonial Realty Company, Arlington, Virginia, who furnished the following information.

GEORGE N. BRIGGS purchased the residence on August 17, 1942, for a total purchasing price of \$17,850.00. The original plot for which he had previously dealt was smaller but involved the same residence, and the price would have been \$15,750.00. BRIGGS paid \$500.00 down on this property, and executed a second trust to EDWIN H. ROSENGARTEN of ROSENGARTEN, WICK & DAVIS CONSTRUCTION FIRM, Metropolitan Bank Building, Washington, D. C., in the amount of \$4,300.00, half of which was to be due in December of 1942, and the second half to be due in February of 1943. According to Mr. LOFLIN there was never any payment made on this second trust, either on the interest or principal, until he believes, in August or September of 1943, when there was a sum of \$158.00 paid to apply on the interest, which at that time was said to amount to approximately \$258.00.

It was further necessary for Mr. BRIGGS to pay the sum of \$2,000.00 on the property inasmuch as the Columbia Federal Savings and Loan Company, 716 11th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., would not take the complete amount which BRIGGS had endeavored to get as a loan from that organization. To the best of Mr. LOFLIN's recollection, the loan company loaned an amount of \$11,500.00 to GEORGE N. BRIGGS and MOLLIE W. BRIGGS, inasmuch as both individuals signed the notes. This loan was to be repaid at the rate of \$105.00 per month. BRIGGS stated to Mr. LOFLIN that he would be able to get the other \$2,000 within two days, but subsequently returned and advised that he was unable to raise the money. At this time, Mr. LOFLIN arranged with Mr. F. H. WEIMAN to loan this money inasmuch as BRIGGS claimed that he would be able to have the sum in question within the next 60 days inasmuch as he was awaiting royalties from a book which he had written for Mr. ICKES, from the proceeds of which he was to receive half.

COPIES DESTROYED

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RECORDED

INDEXED

JAN 22 1944

186

Director
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
62-4792

Mr. LOFLIN stated that he asked for a credit report on BRIGGS and saw nothing on the report which received that would preclude his authorizing the loan, but being somewhat suspicious, even so, in order to protect Mr. WEIMAN, he had insisted upon endorsing the note. About this time Mr. LOFLIN was under the impression that BRIGGS was making \$7,500.00 per year in salary, however, he later learned that it was more likely to have been \$4,600.00 per year. After learning that, he became more apprehensive as to whether or not they would be able to realize on the money which they had loaned.

There were two notes made out by GEORGE N. and MOLLIE W. BRIGGS, each in the amount of \$1,075.00, the first to be paid within 30 days and the second to be paid within 60 days. Neither of the notes were paid, nor was there any interest paid on them. Mr. LOFLIN stated that Mr. WEIMAN signed the notes over to him, at which time LOFLIN sued BRIGGS in Fairfax County Court and obtained a judgment which was not satisfied until the property was sold on November 10, 1943. In order to protect themselves, he stated that they had attached the furniture in the BRIGGS home, thus precluding his moving from the residence and letting it fall back into their hands in default without any recourse.

Mr. LOFLIN stated that they had considerable difficulty in reaching BRIGGS on several occasions; that they were also endeavoring to help Mr. ROSENGARTEN get his money; and that they felt singularly successful in being able to obtain the \$158.00 which had been paid Mr. ROSENGARTEN.

The house was finally sold on November 10, 1943 to JOHN HOLMES, and a settlement sheet was prepared to reflect the various releases and tax payments as well as attorney fees, which are involved in this case. This settlement sheet reflects that GEORGE N. BRIGGS paid \$522.45 to clear the judgment and also to satisfy his account in full with the Columbia Realty Company. At that time BRIGGS gave the company a check, at which time the company called the bank in Hyattsville, Maryland, and determined that it would be good, so they accepted it.

In order to further protect their interests, it was necessary for Mr. WEIMAN to purchase the second trust which was then being held by Mr. E. H. ROSENGARTEN in the amount of \$4,300.00. This, together with the \$2,000.00 which had originally been loaned to GEORGE N. BRIGGS by WEIMAN, leaves him with the second trust amounting at the present time to \$6,700.00. However, GEORGE N. BRIGGS does not owe the Realty Company or Mr. WEIMAN any money at the present time.

Director
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
WFO 62-4792

It is also of interest to note that the September and October payments to the Columbia Federal Savings and Loan Association in the amount of \$210.00, also had to be collected at the time of the final sale of the property, which indicates that BRIGGS had not been paying his rent regularly. Mr. LOFLIN verified this information by stating that BRIGGS was generally behind in his rent payments to the loan company. He suggested that [REDACTED]

b7D

With regard to the motion for judgment filed by J. J. LOFLIN, Agent KURTZMAN made a check of the records of the Fairfax County Clerk of Courts, JOHN N. WHALEN. These records reflected that Suit No. 2331 was filed on February 24, 1943, and a motion for judgment was entered on February 27, 1943, after service of copies of the motion had been served on GEORGE N. BRIGGS and MOLLIE W. BRIGGS, by Deputy Sheriff C. B. RUNYON, on February 25, 1943. This judgment was granted on March 15, 1943, for \$2,150.00, plus interest at 6 per cent from August 17, 1942, plus attorney fees of 15 per cent in Circuit Court of Fairfax County. Judgment was granted by Judge WALTER T. MCCARTHY inasmuch as there was no plea or demurrer or appearance entered by either MOLLIE or GEORGE BRIGGS. It is of interest to note that on the back side of each of these notes there is the following typewritten statement which is set out in its entirety herein.

Note
"In the event that anything should happen to me, the undersigned, before this note is satisfied, I hereby direct HAROLD L. ICKES to pay the unsatisfied portion from any moneys due me from him personally; but should the amount due from this source be insufficient to pay in full the unsatisfied portion of the note, I hereby direct my wife, MOLLIE W. BRIGGS, to satisfy the amount in full from any moneys received from insurance or other sources." Signed, "GEORGE N. BRIGGS, witnessed by JOHN J. LOFLIN." This was dated "August 17, 1942."

Mr. LOFLIN furnished to Agent KURTZMAN a letter signed, G. N. BRIGGS, and referring to a trip that he was intending to make to New York, as well as something concerning some chapters in a book which the President had objected to as being "too current," and which had complicated matters a bit. This letter and envelope reflected that the letter was mailed November 6, 1942.

The letter and settlement sheet are being forwarded to the Bureau as enclosures.

Very truly yours

Originals returned to WFO 11/21/44 CCB
Enclosures
Guy Hottel
GUY HOTTEL
Special Agent in Charge

* 3 *

KCH:DMH

62-74466-186

1736

Date: January 21, 1944

To: SAC, Washington

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to your communication in the captioned matter under date of January 20, 1944, which reflects information received in an interview with Mr. John J. Loflin, Colonial Realty Company, Arlington, Virginia.

The referenced communication also covered transmittal to the Bureau of an original letter and envelope directed to Mr. Loflin by George N. Briggs and a carbon copy of a settlement made for Mr. and Mrs. George N. Briggs with regard to the sale of their property in Falls Church, Virginia.

There are being transmitted herewith for appropriate return to Mr. Loflin, the items which were enclosed with your communication referenced above. Photostatic copies of this material have been retained for the Bureau's files and I am enclosing photostatic copies for the completion of your files.

Enclosures

RECORDED
INDEXED
JAN 21 5 21 PM '44

62-74466-186

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-1-85 BY

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

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44 NOV 9 1964

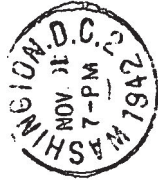
ENCLOSURE



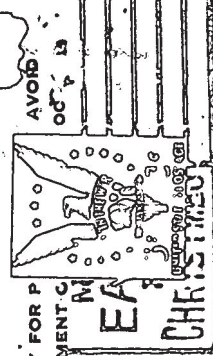
ENCLOSURE

62-7414-186

5134 100 UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



PENALTY FOR
PAYMENT

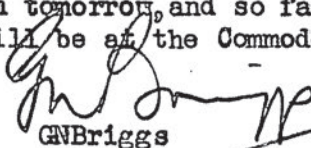


Mr. John J. Loflin,
Colonial Realty Co.,
3248 Wilson Blvd.,
Arlington, Va.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Mr. Loflin:

I have tried several times to get you on the phone today, but without success. My appointment in New York is for tomorrow afternoon. There are many details to be worked out, and I suspect that I will be in New York three or four days. In the meantime the President has objected to one of the chapters as "too current," and that has complicated matters a bit but not seriously. The Secretary is going to try to see him tomorrow and get him to withdraw his objection, but it may hold me up in New York while we are getting clearance. Meanwhile all Mr. W. needs to know or worry himself about is that I am in New York getting his money, whether it takes me one day or a week. As soon as I get any kind of a determination I will wire him, and I will wire you an exact copy of my message to him so that you will know all the answers. There is nothing to worry about in the long run, I assure you. My plan is to take an early train tomorrow, and so far as I know to the contrary I will be at the Commodore Hotel.


G. D. Briggs

SECURITY TITLE COMPANY, INC.

Arlington, Virginia

Settlement for: Mr. & Mrs. Geo. N. Briggs
3034 Buchanan St., So.
Arlington, Va.
Property: Lots 2 & 3 Geo. W. Mankin Est.
Falls Church
Fairfax County, Va.

Case No. 746

As of Nov. 10, 1943

Sales Price to John McC. Holmes	\$	\$17500.00
Taxes Fairfax Co. 1943-	\$91.35 to 11/10/43	78.66
Falls Church to 8/31/43		31.41
9/1/43 to 11/10/43		10.68
Insurance Premiums:		
Fire \$10,000.00 @ \$82.50 for 3 Years Exp 8/21/45		48.89
War Damage \$10,000.00 @ \$10.00 for 1 Year Exp 8/21/44		7.77
First Trust Columbia Fed. S. & L. Assn as of 10/17/43---		9703.36
Interest from 10/17/43 to 11/10/43		30.91
Second Trust E. H. Rosenbarten		4300.00
Interest from 8/17/42 to 11/10/43		315.34
Attorney Fees, for preparation of:		
Deed--		7.50
Release (1) Rosengarten Trust		5.00
(2) Loflin Judgment		5.00
Recording fees:		
Release Rosengarten Trust		2.50
Notary Fees on deed & release		2.00
Commissions to Mrs. King (437.50 less $\frac{1}{2}$ of 80.00 Adv.)		397.50
to J. J. Loflin (437.50 plus $\frac{1}{2}$ of 80.00 Adv)		477.50
Settlement Fee		25.00
Miscellaneous charges or credits:		
Trust from J. McC. Holmes		6700.00
Sept. to Oct. Payments to Columbia Fed. S & L Assn.		210.00
Judgment of John J. Loflin		2635.00
New Second applied to John & Weimann		6700.00
Title Co. by J. H. Simmonds, Att'y		158.00
Balance due or payable		522.45
TOTALS	\$24,937.11	\$24,937.11

Received check for \$522.45

Settled by Alfred A. Hilton
Nov. 10th 1943

Geo. W. Briggs



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Coffey ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols b6
Mr. Rosen b7C
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo ✓
Mr. Hendon ✓
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

I thought you would want to know that the surveillance on George A. Briggs has not been in effect since approximately 1:00 p.m. yesterday, January 18. You will recall the surveillance was started on January 13 with specific instructions to the Washington Field Office that they handle it in an extremely discreet manner, and since that time Briggs has spent most of his time at home with only a few hours a day at the office.

On January 17, 1944, which is the day after the headline publicity had broken in the papers with pictures of the various letters allegedly written by Briggs, he remained at home with his family during the forenoon. His residence is in a new building project known as Fairlington in Virginia, where only a small portion of the suites are as yet occupied and, of course, as a result of the publicity the entire neighborhood was aware of Briggs' involvement. The Agents that morning had reported the fact that they were becoming extremely conspicuous because the only place to maintain the surveillance with any degree of certainty was a parking alcove across the street from the entrance to the suite occupied by Briggs.

It is known that during the previous evening there had been innumerable calls to Briggs' home from the press and when Agents took him home from the interview here late the evening of the 17th, Mrs. Briggs commented that she had been watching for newspaper reporters' cars draw up and had seen them come up and knew every car in the neighborhood.

On the morning of January 18, 1944, the Agents observed Mrs. Briggs go to the window frequently and look about the neighborhood at the cars, including theirs. Also during the forenoon various women in the neighborhood out walking with children or dogs practically stopped and looked into the car at them. As a consequence, they contacted the office and arranged for another car to be sent out so that they could get further from the house.

At approximately 1 o'clock the Agents were becoming so conspicuous that they pulled out of the alcove where they had been parked and drove to the main corner to turn around and come back to another alcove farther from Briggs' home to park. They intentionally went to the corner of the main thoroughfare since that is the direction which Briggs' car has always gone when leaving the house so that if he pulled out while they were away they would still see him as he passed.

However, when they returned to the alcove which was their destination they discovered his car missing. The other car with Agents for which they had called arrived about 5 minutes later and, of course, an immediate search was instituted.



This is atrocious mishandling.
Take up personally with
Hottel.

62 JAN 28 1944

The various Agents who have been on the surveillance have been questioned and the scene examined, and it is their conclusion that the only route Briggs could possibly have used to have left his home in this instance was by a narrow dirt road which proceeds out the back of the new project settlement and eventually reaches the main highway. He apparently just happened to leave with his family at the time the Agents were turning around. Also, because of the consternation shown by Briggs during his interview at the Bureau when he learned from his wife by telephone of the calls from the press and the almost hysterical attitude taken by his wife because of the calls, it is believed most likely that his absence from home since 1:00 p.m. yesterday is due primarily to his desire to avoid the press rather than to flee from any action contemplated against him.

It has been learned that Briggs called Secretary Ickes' office shortly after 5:00 p.m. yesterday, the 18th, in an effort to arrange an interview with Mr. Ickes, and at that time he refused to disclose his present whereabouts. Also, it has been learned this morning that his daughter reported to school, although she apparently was not brought by her father in the car as is customary since a surveillance was being maintained. This would indicate that Briggs is undoubtedly in the Washington area and has not left since we know he is strictly a "family man" and spends all of his time when away from the office with his wife and daughter.

A large squad of Agents are presently maintaining surveillances of all known places of contact of Briggs and are cruising and searching in logical areas for him. A very thorough surveillance is being maintained on his daughter so that when she leaves the school, which closes at 3:00 p.m., a determination can be made as to where she is staying.

This matter is being followed very closely and it is anticipated Briggs will be located before the end of the day. You will be advised of developments.

Respectfully,

Eal


D. M. Ladd
JRM

1/20/44
This was personally covered
with SAC Hitt
DML

JKM: BK
1-22-44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

62-74466

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

Attention: Mr. Henry A. Schweinhaut

Re: C. NELSON SPANKS

Supplementing data I have previously furnished you with regard to the movements of George W. Briggs through January 19, 1944, there are set forth hereinafter the activities and contacts on his part since that date which may be pertinent to the instant case:

January 20, 1944: George W. Briggs left Washington, D. C. on the 12:00 noon Pennsylvania Railroad train to New York City, arriving there at 4:45 P.M. He proceeded to the Biltmore Hotel where he visited with a Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sullivan. They were registered in Room 907, and listed 4656 Deacon Street, Chicago, Illinois as their home address. During the course of the evening Mr. Briggs had no contacts which appeared pertinent, but was in the company of Mr. Sullivan and later of his brother, Glenn W. Briggs, most of the time until approximately 2:05 A.M. when he returned to the Biltmore Hotel where he was assigned Room 702.

January 21, 1944: During the course of this day, Mr. Briggs spent his time at various apparently purely personal pursuits except for a visit to the office of Mr. James D. C. Murray, an attorney who is reportedly prominent for his handling of civil rights cases, at 233 Broadway, New York City, between approximately 10:15 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. He thereafter returned to the Biltmore Hotel and from there filed a telegram to Special Assistant Attorney General Henry Schweinhaut advising he would call at his office Monday morning at 10:00 A.M. Mr. Briggs later accompanied his brother to the Bridge and Backgammon Club, 37 West 51st Street, New York City, remained there only a short while, and then, still accompanied by his brother, went to the home of Mary Jane Mason, 41 West 53rd Street, New York City, at about 2:35 P.M., and remained there for some five hours. You will recall that in a previous communication to you reporting long distance telephone calls made by George W. Briggs from Washington, D. C., the number to which one such call was made was identified as being listed to the home of Mary Jane Mason.

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Corley _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Stark _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

Memorandum for Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

*Rec'd 1/22/44
10:30 AM
JRM*
SA Emerick-NY

A preliminary check revealed that a credit reporting company has a file on the Bridge and Backgammon Club with the most recent date therein being 1941. That file discloses this to be a social club formerly located at 11 West 51st Street. The Bridge and Backgammon Club was registered on September 24, 1937 by Glenn W. Briggs, identified as forty-five years of age, a citizen of the United States, married; and Mrs. Mary J. Mason, forty-five years of age, a divorcee. Mr. Briggs indicated he occupied Room 201 at the Club as his residence. The organization was described as private, no regular paid membership, with play being on a fee basis. It was reported that a total of 500 persons were carried on the Club list, but that only 200 were active. The Club would never permit a representative of the credit agency to enter its premises, but Mr. Briggs reported a value of \$1,500 on equipment and furnishings. The only other pertinent item in the file from which the above data were secured consisted of a report in 1936 at which time Mr. Briggs stated he had previously been employed variously as a free lance salesman.

January 22, 1944: George N. Briggs, accompanied by his brother, made a reservation the evening of January 21, 1944 for accommodations on Baltimore and Ohio train number 102 leaving Jersey City, New Jersey at 1:00 A.M., January 22, 1944, to Washington, D. C. He subsequently used the reservation and arrived in Washington, D. C. at approximately 7:05 A.M., thereafter proceeding to the home of his sister-in-law at 4434 Hawthorne Street, Northwest, where he stopped briefly, and then continued to his own residence at Fairlington, Virginia and remained.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 21, 1944

Mr. Tolson ☒
Mr. E. A. Tamm ☒
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahn _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM LABORATORY REPORT

Re: George N. Briggs; Harry L. Hopkins
Victim - Misc. (Possible Violation of
District of Columbia Statutes Prohib-
iting Forging and Uttering of Documents
to the Injury of Another)

Specimens of stationery bearing "The White House,
Washington" letterhead were submitted by Mr. Burton with the
statement they were obtained from the office of George N.
Briggs.

Comparison with the questioned letter signed "Harry
Hopkins" and addressed to Dr. Humphrey Lee resulted in the
conclusion that the embossed printing was an impression of the
same printing form or die. This is the only known stationery
submitted which matches in this respect.

Further, the physical characteristics of the paper
match the questioned more nearly than any other known submitted
to date in size, thickness, weight, watermark and finish. There
are differences in these but they are quite similar compared to
papers in Mr. Hopkins' office which do not match the questioned
in these respects.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]



RECORDED
&
INDEXED

162-747-189
27 JAN 22 1944
[initials]

JKM:BK
1-21-44

INDEXED

62-74466 - 189

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

Attention: Mr. Henry A. Schweinhout

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Examinations have heretofore been made by the FBI Laboratory of various specimens of official stationery bearing the letterhead "The White House, Washington" with the paper bearing the letter allegedly written by Mr. Harry Hopkins to Dr. Humphrey Lee on August 17, 1943, without effecting a positive identification of the latter.

Please be advised that a positive conclusion has been made that the embossed printing on the letterhead of the instant letter was an impression of the same printing form or die that was used in making the letterhead impression on samples of White House stationery found in the office of George N. Briggs, Room 5138, New Interior Building, Washington, D. C., on January 20, 1944.

The known samples with which this identification was effected can be introduced as having come from the office of Mr. Briggs by Miss Ellen Downs, receptionist and secretary to Mr. Harold Lickes, and the chain of evidence from her to the FBI Laboratory can be testified to by Special Agent George C. Burton of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

J
John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/1/85 BY [redacted]

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b7c

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Starke _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

62 JAN 20 1944

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FBI
JAN 21 3 01 PM '44

E.H.

DF
JAM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

RHK:VIM
62-4792

Washington, D. C.
January 20, 1944

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

ATTENTION: MR. J. K. MUMFORD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

On January 20, 1944, Special Agent ROBERT H.
KURTZMAN contacted [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] furnished this Agent with [redacted]

[redacted] with the request that it be returned when it is no
longer needed by the Bureau.

It was also determined that BRIGGS did not pay
his rent in September or October, of 1943. The company
finally received its rent from the settlement when the property
was sold.

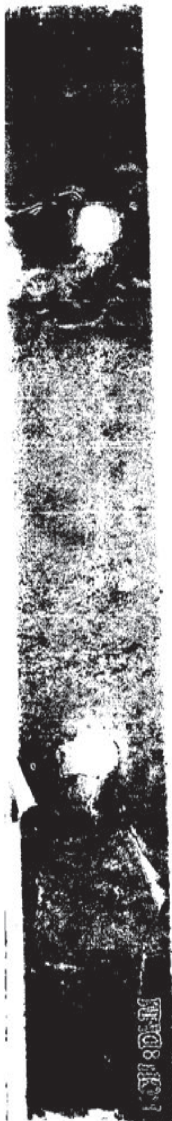
Very truly yours,

GUY HOTTEL
SAC

Enclosures

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-7461-190
F B I
JAN 23 1944



RECORDED

62-74466-192

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

Date: January 21, 1944

To: SAC, Washington

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: C. NELSON SPARKS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to your communication in the above matter dated January 20, 1944, with which were transmitted to the Bureau the originals of ten communications received by [redacted]

b7D

Photostatic copies of this material have been made for the Bureau's files and there are being returned herewith the original communications along with photostatic copies for the completion of your file Mr. Clegg in this case. The originals should, of course, be immediately returned in compliance with his request in this regard.

Mr. Tolson	Enclosures
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

JAN 21 1944
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Handwritten signatures and initials, including "JAH" and "JHE".

62 JAN 23 1944 57

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



CC-287

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

JKM:PES

Call: 10:30 a.m.

January 21, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS

Mr. Emrich called from New York to advise that a few minutes ago Mr. George N. Briggs went to the office of James D. C. Murray at 233 Broadway, New York City, and is there at present.

You will recall that Murray is an extremely well-known attorney, particularly in the civil rights field. It is, of course, not known as yet whether he is the attorney with whom Briggs was overheard to have said he had an appointment at 1:30 p.m. today.

Respectfully,

J. E. Mumford
J. E. Mumford

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/15/80 BY [redacted]



FEB 3 1945

RECORDED & INDEXED
62-74460-191

JAN 24 1944

7-23

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols ✓
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

b6
b7C

JKM: BK
1-25-44

62-74466

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

I have previously furnished to you, immediately pursuant to your individual requests, various records and communications between George N. Briggs and C. Nelson Sparks, and the results of examinations by the FBI Laboratory. I thought, however, you might find of assistance a compilation I have had prepared of these data, and am accordingly attaching photostatic copies of such a chart, as well as a copy of a summary memorandum laboratory report. I am also attaching copies of various rough draft communications, [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]. You will note that some of these rough drafts are apparently the bases for the communications submitted by C. Nelson Sparks, and that the results of the FBI Laboratory examinations tend to confirm Mr. Sparks' testimony. Others are communications not heretofore introduced into the testimony although several were covered in the interview conducted with George N. Briggs by representatives of this Bureau.

I would like to reiterate and emphasize the fact that [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] been learned of through strictly confidential sources, and our informants must be properly protected. It is understood, however, that you have subpoenaed the [redacted] if you so desire, and upon receipt of the records through those means, the data contained in the enclosures submitted herewith may be used.

You will no doubt be particularly interested in correlating the dates of the recorded contacts between Briggs and Sparks with the testimony heretofore received and with the denials and allegations of Briggs as contained in the transcript of the interview with him by representatives of this Bureau on January 17, 1944.

As I pointed out before, all investigation requested by you in this matter has been completed and no further action will be taken unless specific requests are received.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

62-74466-192
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 28 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Attachments

JAN 26 1944

JAN 23 1944

ENCL BEHIND FILE

KCH:DMM

62-74466-193

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/18/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7c

Date: January 21, 1944

To: SAC, Washington

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: C. NELSON SPARKS; INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to your letter under date of January 20, 1944, in
the captioned matter which set forth the details of an interview had with [redacted]

b7D

The referenced communication also covered transmittal to the Bureau of

[redacted] Photostatic copies of the enclosures to your communication have been
made for the Bureau's files. I am returning to you herewith the original com-
munications. These should be returned to [redacted] in compliance with his
request. There are also attached photostatic copies of these letters for your
file.

Enclosures

[Handwritten signatures and initials: JPH, RJA, JMM, and others]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.
January 20, 1944

RHK:MD
62-4792

ATTENTION: MR. J. E. MUMFORD

b6
b7C

Director, F.B.I.

RE: C. NELSON SPARKS ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

Dear Sir:

[redacted] Washington,
D. C., was interviewed on the afternoon of January 20, 1944, by Special
Agent ROBERT H. KURTZMAN of the Washington Field Office. [redacted]
advised that he had been expecting someone from the Bureau to call on him
regarding the fact that he had dealt with GEORGE N. BRIGGS, concerning whom
he understood various inquiries were being made.

b7D

[redacted] was very cooperative and stated that as far as any

b7D

COPIES DESTROYED
24 NOV 9 1964

Director
RE: C. NELSON SPARKS
RHK:MD
62-4792

b7D

[REDACTED]

As a matter of interest concerning the so-called pertinent period from September 27th to October 9th, 1943, in this case, it is very possible that any money of a large nature received by Mr. BRIGGS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] • (8-29-43)

[REDACTED] are to be returned to him when the Bureau has no further use for them.

During the investigation conducted by Agent KURTZMAN at [REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED] [no information]
was developed which would indicate [REDACTED]

Very truly yours

Guy Hotel
GUY HOTTEL
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures -

*Originals
sent to WFO
1-11-44
Photostatic copies kept.
ICU*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

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44 NOV 9 1964

RECEIVED



RECEIVED

JKM:EK
1-20-44
62-74466

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY A. SCHWENKHAUT
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: C. NELSON SPARKS

Transmitted herewith is a photostatic copy of a press release issued by C. Nelson Sparks the afternoon of January 20, 1944 in connection with the investigation of the letter allegedly written by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee under date of August 17, 1943.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Attachment

#256580
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/85 BY [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Olson _____
A. Tamm _____
Ladd _____
Neff _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Starke _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Candy _____

JAN 28 1944

(27)

RECORDED
INDEXED
JAN 21 1944

62-74466-194
E. J. [Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

For release morning papers,
Friday, January 21, 1944.

STATEMENT OF C. NELSON SPARKS
REGARDING THE HOPKINS LETTER

This statement is prompted by a natural anxiety that no effort be spared to uncover all facts bearing on the letter written by Harry Hopkins to Dr. Umphrey Lee, dated August 17, 1943. I shall attempt to summarize the facts, so far as known to me, with confidence that the authorities, the press and the public will be able to choose between the truth, as published in my book "One Man - Wendell Willkie," and the recent chorus of denials emanating from Hopkins, Lee, Phillips, Ickes, and, I regret to add, George N. Briggs, who was my principal source of information on the Hopkins letter, and whom I have regarded as a trusted friend for several years.

That there are gaps in the information I have been able to supply of my own knowledge I freely concede. The facts and documents which I have, and which I desire to make available to everyone, are certainly sufficient to establish the principal events and circumstances, and to provide leads which, if sincerely pursued, will bring the remaining details to light. It is vitally important that these leads be followed before material witnesses and relevant documents become unavailable for one reason or another. They ought to supply the last chapter of the "mystery" which Mr. Ickes is looking forward to reading.

To illustrate what I mean, Mr. Briggs should be required to produce all letters and wires he received from me. The originals of the six telegrams he sent to me in the period from September 27, 1943 to December 10, 1943, which were read into the Congressional Record by Senator Langer on January 17, 1944, should be subpoenaed from Western Union before they are destroyed. Records of the telephone company should be subpoenaed to show the long distance

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-1-85 BY [redacted]

COPIES DESTROYED

44 NOV 9 1964

N.O Page 7

calls passing between Briggs and myself from September to December. Records of the Department of the Interior should be produced to show whether or not Briggs did visit Dallas as stated in his letters and wires, between October 4 and October 9. The original letters sent by Briggs to me should be examined by experts, with respect to both typewriting and handwriting. Why hasn't Briggs already been brought before the Grand Jury and required to testify as to each document and its contents? Why is he still among the "missing" at so late a date when clearly he could solve the "mystery" and save Mr. Ickes from any further suspense?

Just as important, Hopkins, Lee, Phillips, and Ickes should all be questioned closely as to the meaning of the word "Alamo" appearing in the Hopkins letter, and deleted by me from the letter, as published in my book, at the urgent request of Ickes conveyed to me by letter from Briggs at the last moment before publication. This word in itself may furnish the key to the frantic attempt on the part of these men to disown any connection with the letter and any knowledge of it.

In my own mind, there is not the slightest doubt as to the genuineness and authenticity of the letters and telegrams which Briggs sent to me. Their contents were frequently confirmed in the many conversations I had with Briggs, both in Washington (usually at the Department of the Interior) and by long distance telephone. Some of these telephone calls, incidentally, were made from telephones in the Department of Interior Building. I know his handwriting well. A substantial amount of it, in addition to his signature, appears on several of the letters. The typewriting has

characteristics too clear to be missed. With respect to most of the letters, I saved the original envelopes in which they were mailed from Washington by Briggs and received by me at Akron or New York. These also indicate the same typewriter was used, with the same characteristics, and one envelope bears handwriting by Briggs. This instance happens to be a letter he wrote October 18, which he apparently now claims to have been a forgery.

Other typewritten documents which he sent me, and which I shall mention in this statement, seem to have been written on the same typewriter and have the same characteristics. The originals of all these documents are in the possession of the Department of Justice. Fortunately I have retained photostats of all of them, and I have an itemized receipt for the originals.

I kept no copies of the letters I sent to Briggs. The only copy I have been able to find was of a wire which I sent Briggs in reply to his letter of November 13, in which he transmitted Ickes' request that the word "Alamo" be omitted. My wire, the original of which should be obtained from Western Union, was addressed to Briggs at his home in Arlington, and read

"Deletion has been made - writing you today."

That he received other letters and wires from me is shown by the contents of his letters.

Once the authenticity of these letters, telegrams and other documents emanating from Briggs is established, any reasonable man reading them would believe that Hopkins wrote, and Lee received, the letter as published in my book; that I received a correct copy of the letter from Briggs in

October, 1943, over a month prior to the publication of my book on November 17, 1943; and that everything Briggs did or wrote in this connection was with the full knowledge and approval, and, to some extent, at the instigation of Ickes himself.

I note, however, that the representative of the Department of Justice in charge of the Grand Jury proceedings has announced to the press that the purported original of the Hopkins letter, which I turned over to the Department when I appeared before the Grand Jury on January 14, has been shown to be a forgery. Maybe so. I assume such a statement would not be made by a responsible official without some basis for it. If it is a forgery I was not aware of it, since I have had complete confidence in its genuineness at all times since I received it on December 21, 1943, because of the circumstances under which I received it from Briggs, and through Briggs from Ickes, and the faith I had placed in his assurances and integrity.

Let no one be deceived by this purported original letter, or by the diligent efforts to prove it to be a forgery. If it is not genuine, it constitutes one of the most contemptible and duplicitous examples of double dealing I have ever encountered, certainly by Briggs, and, I believe, also by Ickes. The only explanation I can conceive is that they have been forced to indulge in trickery for the sake of covering up Ickes' tracks on his activities in exposing a fellow member of the administration's inner circle, Hopkins, against whom, I have heard, Ickes entertains something less than the best of feelings. This alleged forgery was delivered to me over a month after my book was published. My book contained a true copy of a letter which I believe was actually sent by Hopkins to Lee. It was made available

to me by Ickes through Briggs, together with the promise that the original would be made available within a short time thereafter. There would have been no "forgery" and no "mystery" if publication of my book had not caused "a great hullabaloo and much consternation" in the "southwest," because of the use made of the Hopkins letter, as stated in Briggs' letter to me of November 24, and because of later published stories indicating that Ickes was the source of the letter. When Lee and Ickes testified before the Grand Jury, were they asked only about the purported original letter, or were they really questioned to find out if Hopkins had written Lee a letter containing the same language, or substantially the same language?

The best way to demonstrate the truth of my assertions is to summarize the facts chronologically.

While I did not have direct contact with Ickes in connection with the Hopkins letter, I have known him for over ten years. As Mayor of Akron, I was a Director of the United States Mayors' Conference in 1933, and met with Ickes several times on matters pertaining to public work funds. Together with Mayor Hoan of Milwaukee, I had my picture taken with Ickes as the two of us met him in Chicago when he arrived to make a speech for the Mayors' Conference at the World's Fair.

My association with Briggs began in 1939-1940 when I was national campaign manager for Frank Gannett, and Briggs was employed by me in organization work during the campaign. Since then, we have been close friends,

at least until the past two or three days. I have been in his office many times, have visited his home near Washington, and met with him on the evening just before I appeared before the Grand Jury on January 14. On that occasion I told him that if requested, I would tell all the facts bearing on the incident. He told me that the Secretary had suggested that if they (the Grand Jury) proved that the letter was a forgery, I should tell where and how I got the letter. Briggs also said that the Secretary would back me up.

Needless to say, Briggs made no claim that any of the documents was a forgery. Since I appeared before the Grand Jury, he has telephoned me long distance twice, as can easily be checked. Once was on the evening of January 14 after I had returned to New York. He asked me what happened in the Grand Jury. I answered, in substance, that I could not tell him, but that if he was called he should tell the truth and not be the goat for anybody, that he had a wife and child to think of. The second time he called was about 6 a.m. Tuesday morning, January 18, while I was in Akron, when he called and talked to my wife. He expressed displeasure at my having given Senator Langer the photostatic copies of "all his private correspondence," which Senator Langer read into the Congressional Record that day. Again he made no claim that any of these documents was a forgery. Since then I have had no communication with him of any kind.

I commenced preparation of my book on Willkie in the early part of the summer of 1943, and brought the first rough draft of the manuscript to Washington and had Briggs read it over. I did this because Briggs was in a position to furnish and corroborate information I used in the book having nothing to do with the Hopkins letter, but arising out of events which occurred when we were in Philadelphia together in 1940.

When I had finished what I thought was my final draft, I again came to Washington and had Briggs read it over. This was in the early part of September, 1943, as nearly as I can recollect. At any rate, it is confirmed by Briggs' letter to me of September 10, 1943, which is one of the two letters he admits to be genuine (I have been unable to learn which is the other genuine letter). This letter reads as follows:

"I have read with great interest your manuscript, "One Man - Wendell Willkie." Thank you for letting me see it. I am glad that I could have been of service in documenting the piece with the letters from Martha Taft and the late Dr. Frank, both of which you so kindly returned for my files. You have accurately reported the conversations with the member of the South Carolina delegation, and with the attorney who was so interested in the Arizona delegation. If I can be of any further help, please call on me."

I had previously told Briggs that he should tell Ickes that he (Briggs) might be called upon to document certain statements in my book, so as not to prejudice him in his job. Briggs told me he had done so and that Ickes had said it was all right. This is how Ickes learned I was writing the book.

At about this time or immediately afterward, I asked Briggs if he could secure for me information about how Willkie secured use of an army bomber for a global tour. Briggs undertook to do so. He reported to me that he had talked with Ickes and secured information which he set forth in a one-page, typewritten memorandum, which he turned over to me. He also turned over to me a small typewritten note apparently relating to the same matter. The important aspect of these documents is that they led directly into my obtaining knowledge of the Hopkins letter, and eventually a copy of it.

Briggs told me that, when Ickes learned I was interested in the Hopkins angle of Willkie's global tour, he asked Briggs to find out whether I would be interested in a letter which Hopkins had written, involving Willkie.

Briggs called me about it by long distance telephone and then described the letter to me in a typewritten note. It reads as follows:

"the letter is to a Texas politician and is signed by HH on HH stationary and is to this effect: "What developments in the _____ matter" (a local political situation) in which FDR is much interested. "Incidentally, we will have nothing to worry about if Willkie is to be the man. He will understand." "

This last memorandum was sent to me by Briggs, in accordance with my best recollection, by air mail, special delivery, on September 20, 1943. I had the original envelope. Perhaps the other two memoranda previously mentioned were sent in the same envelope; I do not recall.

Briggs told me that, according to Ickes, when Lee received the letter from Hopkins, he sent it over to Frank Phillips, the oil man, with penciled notations calling attention to certain words and asked Phillips what was meant by these words; that Phillips, being a close friend of Ickes, brought the letter to Washington and showed it to Ickes; that Ickes asked Phillips to let him have the letter but Phillips refused, telling Ickes "Send one of your men to Texas and I'll see that he gets the letter."; that, because of these circumstances, Ickes could not make the letter available to me directly, but would see that it was returned to Dallas so that it might be obtained from Dr. Lee under proper circumstances. Briggs also told me that it would be necessary for him, Briggs, to go to Dallas for this purpose, and that he would need money for expenses.

While I was hesitating whether to have him do this, he wired me on September 27, 1943, saying:

"If interested in Texas matter, we must move fast
Phone or wire."

Following receipt of this wire, I went to Washington, saw Briggs, and paid him \$125.00 in cash for his expenses. Briggs told me that Ickes

arranged for his leave of absence so he could make the trip. On October 4, 1943 he wired me:

"Unable to get date before Thursday this week
Leaving today."

If Briggs denies sending these wires, the originals, as filed by him with the telegraph company, should be subpoenaed without delay. The "date" referred to in the second wire, was, as he told me, with Dr. Lee, and was arranged by Frank Phillips. The Department of the Interior records will certainly show whether Briggs was absent on leave at this time, and will probably show where he was. If he did not make this trip to Texas, he certainly profited out of me to the tune of \$125.00, but I have no reason to doubt that he did go. I know he was out of town at this time because I telephoned and his wife said he was out of the city.

On October 9 he wrote me a letter as follows:

"Just back late last night -- without the letter. However, it will be here next week on the word of Mr. Phillips who is coming East and will bring it. The fact is that the one to whom the letter was addressed -- the head of Southern Methodist -- wanted it back for a purpose but has promised to put it back into circulation as soon as he has finished. I didn't feel that I could afford to wait for that time as he said it probably wouldn't be for four or five days. Moreover, I didn't want to have photostats made of it and they promised me that they wouldn't have them, either, because once you get three or four copies in circulation somebody is going to print it. Personally I want this one exclusive.

I won't take the time to tell you the story now as I am way behind in my work here. Besides it will keep until you come to Washington. Mr. Willkie's tail is well in the gate in Texas. I am anxious to hear how things are going with you.

(S) G

PS - I feel that I can definitely assure you that the letter will be in our hands next week. Incidentally I am getting splendid cooperation from this end of the line.

g"

Who could Briggs be referring to other than Ickes when he mentions "splendid cooperation"?

Not having obtained the original, Briggs furnished me with two copies of the Hopkins letter. One of these was, according to my best recollection, handed me by Briggs, and the other was accompanied by a letter from Briggs to me, dated October 15, reading as follows:

"I had my meeting with Dr. Umphrey Lee, and I am enclosing herewith a copy of the Hopkins letter which I read and was assured by Dr. Lee that the original would be made available for our use within the next week or ten days. It will come to me through those sources which I disclosed to you."

Briggs told me that when he arrived at Dallas, he went to see Phillips at his office, that Phillips was not in, but Phillips' secretary informed Briggs of an appointment made with Dr. Lee, and that Briggs had dinner with Dr. Lee that evening at a restaurant in Dallas and actually saw the original Hopkins letter. Briggs told Lee that he was there as Ickes' representative. I call attention to the fact that in my book I do not claim to have the original, but simply state (page 44)

"I have a copy of one of those letters, the original is available."

This is an appropriate place at which to point out certain differences between the two copies which Briggs gave me in October and the purported original which he sent me in December. These differences did not come to my attention until I gathered the Briggs correspondence together and studied it recently. The differences

become all the more significant in the light of the assertion that the purported original is a forgery.

The most striking difference is that the copies bear the letter-head "Harry Hopkins," whereas the purported original bears the headnote

"The White House
Washington"

It is hard to believe that any man, no matter how careless, making a copy, would make a mistake of this sort (unless possibly he was trying to leave the White House out of the matter). Another difference is the fact that the copies are paragraphed, whereas the purported original is not. A third difference is in the address, the copies giving "Southern Methodist" and the purported original giving "Southern Methodist University." On the other hand, there is a striking resemblance, and that is in the typewriting and the characteristics thereof, which leads me to suspect there may be something to the charge that the purported original is a fake, that it was prepared by Briggs, and that, for reasons already suggested, it was done at Ickes' suggestion or request. One of the copies (the one accompanied by the letter of October 15) shows faintly a pencilled circle around certain words in the letter with a line toward the upper left-hand corner; this copy is on a sheet of paper plainly cut off at the top and originally it may have contained a copy of Lee's pencilled notation. Notice also that the two copies I received in October both contain the word "Alamo" whereas the purported original has this word blacked out.

At about this time, or shortly afterwards, Briggs told me that a man named Griscom, representing Senator Connally, was told by a Willkie representative named Rader, of the Texas Light & Power Company, that Willkie would be for Connally; that Hopkins told Lee that Willkie would be

for Lee; that Griscom got sore; that both sides are against Willkie; and that then Lee fell out with Hopkins on the Alamo, a personal matter. I made notes to this effect which appear on the back of the copy of the Hopkins letter which was accompanied by Briggs' letter of October 15.

On October 18, Briggs wrote me a letter, as follows:

"The Phillips letter came in just as the boss was leaving to take a train for Chicago. He asked for permission to take it with him - wanted to show it to someone he expects to see while away. He will return the end of this week and I will then have it for you. Meanwhile I have been so rushed that I have not had a chance to write the story. I think you should go without it because we don't want to rush it. Besides, what you have is strong enough to stand on its own bottom. The Taft letter hasn't come through yet, and I suspect that it isn't in St. Paul. I did receive the printed bulletin that I put out on the subject and I will have that for you when you come to Washington. Good luck."

The envelope bears Briggs' handwriting in the words "air mail - special."

Briggs later told me that when Ickes opened the envelope he found it was the wrong letter, and that he had to send it back to Texas and get the right letter. Perhaps someone in Chicago persuaded Ickes to go slow on permitting the letter to be published. At any rate, the stalling then began in earnest.

On October 21, Briggs wrote me a letter. The letter contains a substantial amount of his handwriting in a postscript, reading:

"The more I think of it, the more interested I become in any opportunity to devote my time to putting the skids under W.W."

The letter has no great importance on the subject of the Hopkins letter, but does corroborate my statements as to Briggs asking me to loan him money because of his financial difficulties. As a result, I sent him \$40, in cash, which he acknowledged in his letter of October 27.

The original letter of October 27 contains three paragraphs which read as follows:

"I am not satisfied that I put over to you in our conversation today that I cannot jack up the boss as I could almost any one else. I have learned that he brings things up in his own time, but depend upon it, he never forgets. He went from Chicago to Pittsburgh to inspect some new work there, and then on to Marcus Hook, Del., where he is dedicating a new Sun Oil Company cracking plant today. Tomorrow he speaks before the Saints and Sinners Society of New York, and his secretary has just told me, since I talked with you, that he has an early Friday date with Curtice Hitchcock. That may mean that he won't be in his office this week. Of course if worse comes to worse I can always screw up the courage to call him, but I would rather not force the issue, especially with him.

I realize and regret the position it puts you in. As I have repeatedly told you, however, I believe the book is a strong document even without the H matter, and that as time is so much of the essence and W is making such rapid progress toward the nomination, I would not be in favor of delaying another minute for anybody or anything. It will be no trick and no expense to add the H and W chapter when everything is in hand and when we have had a chance to get it in just the shape we want it.

I repeat, if I were in your shoes I wouldn't wait even for FR. The blast against W should start now. Re-charge it with the H dynamite in another ten days or two weeks. Hours run quickly into days you know, and in this case I sincerely believe there is no time to lose."

While Briggs neglected to sign the letter, the typewriting is plainly his on both the letter and the envelope.

On November 3, Briggs wired me:

"Unavoidable delay of few days due to coal strike emergency and mixup of letters pressing for quickest possible action."

On November 5 he wired me:

"Whats cooking Have call in for you but no return."

The "unavoidable delay" was in response to my inquiries as to the letter. The "mixup of letters" refers to what I have already stated, namely, what Briggs told me about Ickes finding that he had received the wrong letter. Does Briggs deny sending these telegrams? If he does, no time should be lost in subpoenaing the originals from the telegraph company, as filed by Briggs.

On November 6 Briggs wrote me a letter. The second paragraph is important:

"After I talked to you I discussed our matter again with the Secretary, and he confessed that he was afraid there was some stalling going on. I asked him what he thought about using the story without the letter, and he said he thought it would be perfectly safe provided the name of the man who got the letter was not used without his written consent. If the letter is not here Monday he is going to get on the long distance and raise some hell around the country. Meanwhile, he will swear that he saw the letter if it comes to a showdown. I hope it won't be necessary to put him in that spot because he has enough trouble without that."

The letter also deals with Briggs' financial situation, and asks for help from me.

On November 13, Briggs wired me:

"Writing air mail, special"

and on the same day wrote me a letter. If there were nothing in the Briggs correspondence but these documents alone, I would still challenge any reasonable man to doubt the accuracy of my statements about the connection of both Briggs and Ickes with the affair. The letter is in the same familiar style of typewriting, is signed by Briggs, and contains a substantial amount of Briggs' handwriting, which cannot be passed off as forgery.

This is the letter in which the mysterious Alamo matter is raised. I quote the pertinent paragraph;

"The Secretary has had word from Texas, the burden of which is that the use of the word Alamo will be very embarrassing, and the boss has asked me that it be deleted. I have told him that I am sure it will be agreeable. He says that if it is used he is afraid that Dr. Lee won't stand up. He is working on that now; also to get the letter itself which I think will be made easier as soon as you give me assurances that Alamo will not be used."

The rest of it has to do primarily with Briggs' financial difficulties.

In his own handwriting he adds:

"Wire or phone me."

and sets forth his new telephone number and new address in Arlington.

In reply I wired him (at his new address and telephone number in Arlington):

"Deletion has been made - writing you today."

I immediately got in touch with my publisher and had the deletion made, although the book was already in type, with the result that asterisks were substituted for the word "Alamo", as published on page 44 of my book. My publisher will substantiate this. I added an explanation that

"Obviously, deleted matter, is of personal nature."

The book was published and placed on sale only four days later, November 17.

On November 16 Briggs wrote me a letter.

The important portion is in part of the third paragraph, as follows:

"I gather from your letter that you are discouraged over the failure of the Hopkins missive to arrive. You can still say that the original letter is available, because it will be if I have to invoke the pressure of the Secretary to get it.****I am confident that you have a powerful document that is going to have a profound effect upon the coming political situation. And if worse comes to worse we can force some one's hand in the Hopkins-Lee affair. We will discuss it further when you come to Washington."

Notice that in this letter Briggs repeated his new address.

On November 24, after my book had been published, Briggs wrote me a letter. The important portion is the following from the third paragraph:

"The head has been put on the Secretary from the Southwest. When it was learned what use had been made of the Hopkins letter there was a great hullabaloo and much consternation. The Secretary called me in and said not to be surprised at some pretty strong statements, but to "sit tight and say nothing." I have cotton in my ears."

On December 10 Briggs wired me:

"Call me concerning story in today's paper."

You will notice that the telegram bears a notation indicating that I answered it on the same day. Briggs should be required to produce my answer, since I do not have a copy. I do not recall what the newspaper story was that led to this exchange of wires, but believe it had to do with Mr. John Cowles. I did, however, receive something by mail from Briggs in an envelope postmarked Washington, D. C., December 10, 1943. It may have contained a clipping of the newspaper story referred to.

Finally, on December 20, 1943, Briggs sent me the purported original of the Hopkins letter. He did this in an envelope, which I saved. You will notice that it is addressed to me in Akron, and that both the address and the

words "air mail" are hand printed in ink. It should not be difficult to determine, through experts, whether this was done by Briggs. The return address on the back of the envelope, which has been blacked out, was the name and address of my publishing company in New York. I had suggested to Briggs that he use this as the return address, and later, on receiving the letter, blacked it out myself.

I had been in Washington on Saturday, December 18, trying to get the original letter. Briggs told me that he believed the letter was out at Ickes' country home in his safe. I left Saturday night, December 18, without getting it. On Tuesday, December 21, however, I received the purported original at Akron in the above described envelope, postmarked Washington, D.C., December 20 (Monday). Briggs' later told me that the letter was actually in Ickes' safe in his office and that Mr. Ickes' woman secretary (her name was something like Connelly, I believe) had charge of it and got it for Briggs.

Briggs told me that the handwriting in the upper right hand corner of the purported original read in substance as follows:

"Dear Frank:

What do these words mean?

Umphrey"

The reference was to the words "Willkie" and "cooperation" within the circle, which also has been erased. I have already sufficiently discussed the difference between the purported original and copies I was given in October.

I had always found George N. Briggs to be of the highest integrity, and a good friend. The information he had given me on other subjects ever since I first began associating with him has proved trustworthy. I had no reason in the world to doubt the authenticity of this purported original Hopkins letter,

coming to me as it did from Secretary Ickes through Briggs. Naturally I did not employ any experts on handwriting or typewriting to determine whether it was genuine. My confidence in its authenticity is demonstrated by the fact that I made it public, and freely furnished photostats to the press, as well as by the fact that I appeared before the Grand Jury and produced the letter. Briggs never gave me any reason to suspect or doubt the genuineness of the letter.

It is with regret that I have read of the disclaimers attributed to Briggs, and his attempts to make it appear that all but two of his letters are forgeries. I fear that he is permitting himself, or has been forced, to be made the scapegoat to save face for those who are more powerfully placed, in order to conceal the true facts from the public, and perhaps also from members of the Administration. The famous battle cry "Remember the Alamo" seems to be replaced by "Forget the Alamo" in the Inner Circle of the New Dealers.

The Attorney General of the United States has seen fit to make this Hopkins letter the subject of a Grand Jury investigation. I trust that his purpose is not simply to reach the conclusion that the purported original which I received December 21 is a forgery, but to ascertain the truth and make it public, in fairness to all concerned. He can hardly do otherwise, in view of the published statements of Hopkins, Ickes, Phillips, Lee and Briggs. It is elementary that he would have no right to act as the private attorney for Hopkins or Ickes, or to spend the taxpayers' money for such a purpose. His clients are the people of the United States.

The issues are much broader than the question whether the purported original Hopkins letter I received in December is a genuine document; if it is

not, of course the authors of the fraud should be sought out and punished. The real underlying question is, did or did not Harry Hopkins write a letter to Dr. Lee in August, containing that language, or substantially the same language? What did he mean by it? What is "Alamo"? What were the parts played in the matter by Lee, the University president, Phillips, the oil man, and Ickes, the lover of mystery stories? Is Hopkins a party to any scheme to put Wendell Willkie over on the American people as was done in 1940? Is the Administration trying to discredit my book because it exposes the New Dealers' favorite Republican? Drew Pearson, the famous radio commentator, went on the air a couple of weeks ago and, after saying the letter was a forgery, said it had been offered to him. Why hasn't he been subpoenaed to testify? Perhaps that would help solve the mystery.

The matter can no longer properly be investigated in secret, with no opportunity for the press or the public to know whether these men have been thoroughly questioned or are simply being given an opportunity to participate in a whitewash of themselves. All the evidence which has been heard by the Grand Jury, including my own, should be made public, and not just the little items here and there which seem to favor Hopkins and Ickes or to help them out of their jam. Ascertainment of the facts is much more important than lowering the curtains on the New Deal household and screening from public gaze the brotherly quarrels between Hopkins and Ickes. In any event, I trust that Congress will see to it that the facts are all brought to light.

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ONE

MAN

— Wendell Willkie

by C. Nelson Sparks

Former Mayor of Akron, Ohio

AN INSIDE STORY

WHO'S BEHIND HIM — HOW HE WON AT PHILADELPHIA —
"ROOMFUL OF MONEY" — HIS 10 YEARS IN AKRON —
WHERE HIS "CAMPAIGN ORATORY" STATEMENT WAS MADE —
HOW HE GOT U.S. Bomber for World Tour — WHAT
THEY ARE DOING FOR HIM NOW — DANGER AHEAD

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ONE MAN —Wendell Willkie

by C. Nelson Sparks

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We have examined all the documents supporting the statements in "One Man—Wendell Willkie" and we are convinced that it is a true record of the facts in the case.

—E. C. RAYNER, *President*
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